

**IN LIEU
DIRECTORS' MEETING
MONDAY, JULY 3, 2006
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING, ROOM 113**

I. MAYOR

- *1. NEWS ADVISORY. News conference with Mayor Seng on proposed local ban of concealed weapons.
- *2. NEWS RELEASE. Domestic violence agencies support Mayor's efforts to ban concealed weapons in Lincoln.
- *3. NEWS ADVISORY. Mayor Coleen Seng's schedule to include:
 - a) Friday, June 23 - Media briefing on recommended City budget; and
 - b) Monday, June 26 - State of the City address.
- *4. Washington Report, June 16, 2006.
- 5. NEWS RELEASE. Mayor says City must choose growth strategy and invest in future job creation.
- 6. Letter to City Councilperson Robin Eschliman re: Comments/discussion about City budget.
- 7. Letter to City Councilman Ken Svoboda re: Departmental low priority programs.
- 8. NEWS ADVISORY. News conference, ground breaking for redevelopment project, south side of "O" Street, between 48th and 50th streets.
- 9. NEWS RELEASE. "Star City Treasures" project capturing oral histories of city residents.
- 10. NEWS RELEASE. Ground Broken for \$10 Million Project at 48th and "O" Streets.
- 11. Washington Report, June 23, 2006.

II. DIRECTORS

FINANCE/ TREASURERS DEPARTMENT

- *1. Monthly City Cash Report closing May 31, 2006.
- 2. June sales tax reports:
 - a) Actual Compared to Projected Sales Tax Collections.
 - b) Gross Sales Tax Collections (with refunds added back in).
 - c) Sales Tax Refunds.
 - d) Net Sales Tax Collections.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

- *1. Community Health Endowment announces recipients of annual awards.
- 2. July 4th Pet Safety.

PLANNING

- 1. Heritage Lakes 3rd Addition - Final Plat #05005. Generally located at South 95th Street and Pine Lake Road.
- 2. Thompson Creek 2nd Addition - Final Plat #06007. Generally located at Thompson Creek Boulevard and Nashway Road.

PLANNING COMMISSION FINAL ACTION

1. Special Permit No. 06037. (Friedens Lutheran Church - 540 D Streets)
Resolution No. PC-01003.

PUBLIC WORKS

- *1. PUBLIC WORKS AND UTILITIES ADVISORY. Water Capital Improvement Project No. 700275, "L" Street 6th to 9th. NOTE: Has been put on hold until further notice. Questions contact Steve Faust at 441.8413.
- *2. Memo from Dennis Bartels, Engineering Services, in answer to Eschliman's questions on cost-benefit numbers for two proposed annexations and developments.
- *3. Highland View Annexation Agreement, 06R-114. Street construction estimates.
- *4. Master Planning Open House on the Deadmans Run Watershed.
- 5. PUBLIC WORKS AND UTILITIES ADVISORY. Water Capital Improvement Project # 700273. Eleventh Street; L - Lincoln Mall.
- 6. PUBLIC WORKS AND UTILITIES ADVISORY. Storm Sewer bond issue project to start. Project #702190.

URBAN DEVELOPMENT

1. Street and Alley Vacation No. 05010, East/West Alley, 100 feet east of vacated 49th Street between Prescott and Lowell Avenues.

WEED CONTROL

- *1. Combined Weed Program, May 2006 Monthly Report.

III. CITY CLERK

1. Sidewalk Issue; 06R-123. Email from Bryan Oakeson.

IV. COUNCIL REQUESTS/CORRESPONDENCE

JON CAMP

1. Email from Bob Fillaus re: Reduce tax and fee burden for wage earners.
2. Email from Bryan Jones re: Do not support proposal of taking full advantage of recent property tax revaluations and not lowering city's levy on property.

ROBIN ESCHLIMAN

- *1. Article on "Supreme Court Rules Against Excessive Regulation" for affordable housing in two wetlands cases.
- 2. Letter from Robin Eschliman to City Directors, June 23, 2006.
- 3. Letter from Bonnie Coffey/Lincoln-Lancaster Women's Commission, "Concealed Carry Law Issues".

PATTE NEWMAN

- *1. Response from Randy Hoskins, Public Works City Traffic Engineer, on traffic light at 33rd and Holdrege Streets.
- *2. Request to Dana Roper, City Attorney/Karl Fredrickson & Marc Rosso, Public Works - RE: Graffiti - (RFI#39 - 06/22/06)

V. MISCELLANEOUS

- *1. Email from Norman Stimbert re: Citizens paying high taxes and has suggestions on the City, Mayor, and County members being more fiscal problem solvers.
- *2. Email from Mike Washington re: Supports Planning Commission's approval of Greg Sanford's permit for soil mining.
- *3. Email from Stephen J. and Jeanne L. Nazario re: Opposed to sidewalks in the Edenton South Neighborhood.
- *4. Email from Beatty Brasch re: Pitfalls of the "Stop Overspending in Nebraska" petition.
- *5. Email from Susan Merrill re: Status of an animal shelter for the city.
- *6. Email from Mary Emmons re: Developer fees.

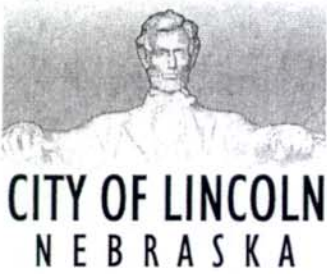
Miscellaneous -- Opposed to the Mayor's Conceal Carry Ban **Received week of July 3, 2006**

1. Email from Don Bougger.
2. Email from Scott Sandquist.
3. Email from Ronnie Olson.
4. Email from Joe Binge.
5. Email from Shirley R. Anderson.
6. Email from Sam Rupp. (Two copies received on same day)
7. Email from John Swancara.
8. Letter received from Clarice M. Lawson.
9. Memo received from John Turner.

Miscellaneous --Received week of July 3, 2006

1. "Put The Brakes On Keno" - Signatures of people opposed to new Keno locations. Two pages, 21 names.
2. Letter received from Wavell Marcsisak, re: Thoughts on continued hike in property tax. (Distributed to Council Members on 06/26/06)
3. Email from Kay Ballard re: Sidewalk issue - Desire that a sidewalk not be put in on the south side of Stevens Ridge Road.
4. Email from Marilyn Hoskins, re: Suggestions after listening to the Mayor's proposed budget.
5. Email from Jayne Sebbby re: Property tax levy rate must be reduced and proposed city budget slashed to a reasonable, affordable rate.
6. Email from Joel Christiansen re: Budget concerns.
7. Email from Daylene Kollmorgen re: Do not use 100% of mill levy concerning Mayor's budget, believe it would be irresponsible.
8. "Put The Brakes On Keno" - Signatures of people opposed to new Keno locations. One page, 6 names.
9. Email from Ryan Burger re: Need for left turn lights for north and south traffic at 14th and Superior Streets.
10. Email from Tanya Forney re: Proposed sidewalks and maintenance of existing sidewalks.
11. Email from Gary Zellweger re: Fireworks in Lincoln.
12. Email from Ron Ritchey re: Property taxes. Work and find way to make spending cuts and reduce amount of taxes.

VI. ADJOURNMENT



NEWS RELEASE

MAYOR COLEEN J. SENG

lincoln.ne.gov

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

555 South 10th Street, Lincoln, NE 68508, 441-7511, fax 441-7120

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 26, 2006

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Diane Gonzolas, Citizen Information Center, 441-7831
Mark Bowen, Mayor's Office, 441-7511

MAYOR SAYS CITY MUST CHOOSE GROWTH STRATEGY AND INVEST IN FUTURE JOB CREATION

In her annual State of the City address today, Mayor Coleen J. Seng said the positive choices made by the City over the past year are paying dividends, leading to job creation and increasing investment opportunities in Lincoln. She said increased expenses and lagging revenues present challenges, but she encouraged the City Council and citizens to support a budget that invests in the City's future.

"We have cut costs," said Mayor Seng. "But Lincoln families don't stop striving for a better tomorrow when times are tough. We must build new infrastructure because that is what helps attract new jobs. We have to pay for the police and fire services that protect us. We have to provide the civic amenities that attract families and encourage businesses. That is our challenge. We have to choose to do it even when it seems difficult."

To meet the budget challenges, Seng cut \$8 million from department requests; denied new programs and employees; found savings in health insurance; cut personnel costs; and limited City hiring. She said her priority was to continue funding the programs and services that make Lincoln attractive to new employers. Because of the decline in sales tax revenue, which funds 42 percent of the budget, Seng said the City needs to rely on the recent increase in property valuations to maintain a commitment to job growth.

"The Chamber of Commerce calls this strategy the 'growth dividend.' We must choose to invest this dividend in the future to keep Lincoln a strong and vibrant community," she said. "Earlier this year, the majority of the City Council told me they wanted to invest the community dividend to maintain important public services. Unfortunately, some have begun to backtrack from their earlier statements. We must set aside elections and work together on a budget that achieves goals for a bright future for Lincoln."

Mayor Seng said her strategy for the future includes:

- Earmarking \$250,000 in land acquisition funds for job creation projects associated with the Lincoln Partnership for Economic Development;
- Protecting key public safety services and proposing a ban on concealed weapons;
- Maintaining libraries, parks, pools and senior centers – the quality of life factors that attract families;
- Assembling a cross section of residents to look at the need for bonds and create a long-range infrastructure financing plan; and
- Continuing to work with the State on a more fair gas tax distribution formula.

- more -

Seng said the City was successful this spring in securing an additional \$1 million in State motor vehicle sales tax revenue for arterial streets. Other successes of the past year include streamlining the development process; designating additional industrial acres and providing infrastructure for them; building sewer lines to open up the 52-square-mile Stevens Creek watershed to development; protecting investments in new areas with floodplain standards; progress on the Antelope Valley Project; work by the Arena Task Force; reversing the blight at 48th and "O" streets; and proposing sex offender residency restrictions near schools.

"I am proud of every positive choice we've made," said Mayor Seng. "As our choices about the future do become more difficult, I will continue to provide the leadership that guarantees that Lincoln always makes the choices that create prosperity and investment."

The entire State of the City Address is available on the City Web site [a lincoln.ne.gov](http://lincoln.ne.gov) and will be re-aired on the government cable access channel, 5 CITY-TV.



NEWS ADVISORY

MAYOR COLEEN J. SENG

lincoln.ne.gov

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

555 South 10th Street, Lincoln, NE 68508, 441-7511, fax 441-7120

DATE: June 28, 2006

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Diane Gonzolas, Citizen Information Center, 441-7831

Mayor Coleen J. Seng and the partners in the redevelopment project on the south side of "O" Street between 48th and 50th will break ground for the businesses at a news conference at **10 a.m. Thursday, June 29** at the site. Enter the development area from 50th Street, which can be reached from "M" Street. If it rains, the news conference will be postponed.



NEWS RELEASE

MAYOR COLEEN J. SENG

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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

555 South 10th Street, Lincoln, NE 68508, 441-7511, fax 441-7120

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 28, 2006

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Diane Gonzolas, Citizen Information Center, 441-7831
Candy Beach, AmeriCorps Oral History Project, 441-4911

“STAR CITY TREASURES” PROJECT CAPTURING ORAL HISTORIES

Mayor Coleen J. Seng will unveil the Star City Treasures Oral History Project at a breakfast at **8 a.m. Thursday, June 29 at the “F” Street Recreation Center, 1225 “F” Street.** The project is an effort to record stories of today’s city residents to share with others now and in the future.

“Lincoln is an international city, where people from many different countries live, work and study,” said Mayor Seng. “I want to thank those who are willing to tell us their stories so future generations can learn more about the spirit of the people who live in Lincoln today.”

Star City Treasures is an AmeriCorps project funded through the Corporation for National and Community Service and administered by the Nebraska Volunteer Service Commission and the City Parks and Recreation Department.

City AmeriCorps Oral History Project Coordinator Candy Beach said the City commissioned a similar project 25 years ago. At that time, neighborhood volunteers interviewed older residents, and the recordings are stored at the Nebraska State Historical Society (NSHS). Beach said most of the 200 individual stories recorded through the previous project came from Volga Germans, who described how their families came to Lincoln as well as school and church activities, traditions, holidays and life in Lincoln. City Parks and Recreation Manager Sandy Myers proposed the idea of the current project while researching her own family history.

“The last two and half decades have brought more than 30,000 refugees and immigrants to be resettled in Lincoln,” said Beach. “Their life experiences are unique. Documenting some of their oral histories allows us as a community to learn about the larger world – a world that often times is filled with tragic separations of families, the deaths of beloved relatives, perseverance in the face of war, ethnic cleansing, famine, disease and man’s inhumanity to man.”

Through the oral history project, AmeriCorps members identify Star City Treasures – individuals and families with compelling life stories. About 25 subjects will be selected, interviewed, photographed and recorded. Their stories will be available through the City Web site, lincoln.ne.gov (keyword: library) and eventually archived at the NSHS.

- more -

Oral History Project
June 28, 2006
Page Two

One of the stories is that of Hoa Tran, who escaped South Vietnam the day before the fall of Saigon in 1975. He escaped on a fishing boat and was later rescued by the U.S. Navy. Once in the U.S., he moved to Lincoln to join other family members. Here, he has obtained citizenship, married and raised a family. He works as a translator and liaison for Lincoln Public Schools.

More information on the oral history project is available by contacting Beach at 441-4911.

The City manages 19 full-time AmeriCorps members and numerous part-time members. Half of the members are assigned to minority-based community centers, the Lincoln Literacy Council and the Lincoln Arts Council. The remaining members work at City Recreation Centers and Community Learning Centers. Members work with minority and low-income children and their families, providing after-school academic support, holistic family services and recreational opportunities. More than 1,000 children receive services annually.



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June 26, 2006

Robin Eschliman
City Council
555 S. 10th Street
Lincoln, Nebraska 68508

Dear Councilwoman Eschliman:

The City directors received your letters on Friday, June 23, 2006. In your letter, you asked each director to consider new ways to increase income to the departments.

I appreciate your enthusiasm and always am willing to hear fresh ideas. I agree completely that revenue is an important piece of any budget, which is why I already told directors to maximize revenue options for the budget I submit to you today.

I do want you to know that some of the ideas you suggested, such as advertising our swimming pools, already are in place. While I would like to encourage even more businesses to headquarter in Lincoln, your suggestion that the City not accept the lowest bid is contrary to the City Charter requiring that we accept the lowest price.

Your comment suggesting that departments begin charging "consulting fees" for department services is uncommon. Currently fees are charged for services. I would appreciate if you would provide more explanation of what type of consulting fees you believe the city should charge.

I know you will have a good discussion of this matter with each director when they visit with you about their budgets. Meanwhile, on behalf of the directors and as their supervisor, your questions are more appropriately discussed with me. I would be happy to meet with you to talk about these ideas at any time.

Sincerely,

Coleen J. Seng
Mayor of Lincoln

cc: City Council
Department Directors



CITY OF LINCOLN NEBRASKA

MAYOR COLEEN J. SENG

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June 26, 2006

Ken Svoboda
City Council
555 S. 10th Street
Lincoln, Nebraska 68508

Dear Councilman Svoboda:

City Directors received your letters on Friday, June 23, 2006. Your letter asked each director to identify low priority programs in each department and provide information about those programs. This letter outlines the administration response to your request.

The submitted budget already identifies the lower priorities where budget cuts were made. City taxes and city spending must be carefully controlled. This has been one of the most challenging budgets I've been involved with in more than 20 years of city service. With that in mind, I would appreciate hearing your ideas about how we might work together to produce the most efficient budget possible. Overall budget prioritization is the job of the Mayor and discussions of city priorities should be between the Council and me.

However, let me remind you that last winter, in preparation for sending budget instructions to the Departments, I asked you at that time to clearly identify your priorities for the coming year and whether each of you wanted to maintain the current property tax rate. You will recall that at the time, you said you wanted to "maintain the current tax mil levy following a 2006 re-evaluation of property" (see attached). The budget I have delivered to the Council is balanced, is prioritized and maintains the current tax rate as you advocated.

Directors worked hard for many months to put together a thoughtful, no-frills budget for their departments. The budget reflects many cuts to many programs. These cuts reflect the directors' reductions based on the priorities within their departments.

During their individual budget hearings with the City Council next month, each director will be prepared to discuss the prioritized reductions already incorporated in my proposed budget and address your questions. They also can explain the impact of the reductions on the service provided and the impact on spending and service of any additional reductions you may propose.

I know you understand that the directors provide a great deal of information to me throughout the budget development process. In the end, this is my proposed budget and reflects the priorities of my administration. I would be pleased to meet with you or any other council member in the coming weeks to discuss ideas you may have for additional cuts or increasing revenues.

Sincerely,

Coleen J. Seng
Mayor of Lincoln

cc: City Council
Department Directors
attached: Ken Svoboda Budget Priorities handout

Lincoln City Budget
F.Y. 2006 – 2007

Ken R. Svoboda

Budget Priorities
(Not in order of priority)

1. Maintain quality of existing city services while exploring various savings through cost efficiencies:
 - a. review recommendations of Zucker Report for immediate implementation
 - b. immediately proceed with the hiring of an Internal Auditor
 - c. review standards and priorities based on solid public health risk analysis regarding the capturing and housing of stray animals
 - d. review overtime policies and usage in all departments
2. Improve public safety with addition of both firefighters and police officers
 - a. hire police officers at a rate of 8 officers per year with civilian personnel hired at a rate of 1.5 per year
 - b. hire firefighters at a rate of 9 per year
3. Additionally fund the Lincoln Partnership for Economic Development by \$250,000.00
4. Additionally fund the Police and Fire Pension Fund by at minimum \$175,000.00
5. Maintain current tax mil levy following a 2006 re-evaluation of property
6. Increase funding for road construction



NEWS RELEASE

MAYOR COLEEN J. SENG

lincoln.ne.gov

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

555 South 10th Street, Lincoln, NE 68508, 441-7511, fax 441-7120

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 29, 2006

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Diane Gonzolas, Citizen Information Center, 441-7831

Darl Naumann, Economic Development, 441-7511

GROUND BROKEN FOR \$10 MILLION PROJECT AT 48TH AND "O"

Mayor Coleen J. Seng and private business redevelopers today broke ground to build new businesses on the south side of 48th and "O" streets. The \$10 million project south of "O" Street between 48th and 50th streets includes a West Gate Bank, a Runza Restaurant and Braeda® Fresh Express Café and a Walgreen's store. The businesses will employ about 100 people.

"The entire community is anxious to see this blighted area be transformed into an attractive retail center, and this groundbreaking is another important step," said Mayor Seng. "The private investment on both the north and south sides of 'O' Street, combined with the new public investment in infrastructure will make this a productive and bustling retail area once again and generate new sales tax revenue."

Earlier this month, Mayor Seng announced that Hy-Vee Inc. will invest \$15 million in a new 78,000-square-foot supermarket on the north side of "O" Street between 50th and 52nd streets. The store will employ about 400 people, and construction is expected to begin by late fall.

The City's project in the area includes the widening of "O" Street to six lanes from 45th to 52nd; improvements on 48th from "M" to "R"; and installing new water mains. Both "O" and 48th streets are scheduled to be open to traffic in late fall 2006. The public and private projects were scheduled at the same time to minimize inconvenience to the public and existing area businesses.

The new businesses on the south side of "O" street are scheduled to open in early 2007. The 14,000-square-foot Walgreen's on the southeast corner of 48th and "O" will employ about 35 people. The Runza Restaurant and Braeda® Fresh Express Café to be built east of the Walgreen's will employ about 50 people. The 6,000-square-foot West Gate Bank and office building on the southwest corner of 50th and "O" will employ about 12 people. The redevelopment agreement includes green space to buffer the new commercial activity from the adjoining neighborhood.

"We faced many challenges in the redevelopment of this area, but we all shared a strong desire to bring this area back to life," said Mayor Seng. "I want to thank our partners in the private sector and the City staff who worked with them to make these exciting projects happen."

WASHINGTON REPORT

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Washington Report

Archived at:
[www.capitaledge.com/
archive.html](http://www.capitaledge.com/archive.html)

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SENATE TAKES A TURN AT TELECOM REFORM

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Senate panel begins markup of telecom reform measure. The Senate Commerce Committee began formal consideration this week of legislation (S 2686) to rewrite federal telecommunications laws but made only modest progress in addressing over 200 proposed amendments to the measure.

Chairman Ted Stevens (R-AK) and his staff spent many hours in the last several days negotiating with local government organizations over provisions of his bill, and the talks yielded changes that make this measure a significant upgrade from the House version (HR 5252) approved earlier this month. Improvements from a local point-of-view include:

- Maintaining the local franchise process that would revert to a national template if agreements cannot be reached in 90 days
- Providing local governments with significant authority over rights-of-way management with conflicts being decided in state and local courts rather than the Federal Communications Commission
- Broadening the definition of gross revenues that would be used to calculate the five percent franchise fee to include home shopping, on-demand, and advertising revenues
- Allowing for a one percent fee for public, educational, and governmental (PEG) programming that could also be negotiated on a per subscriber basis or paid to a franchisee in a lump sum
- Tightening language ensuring that Internet Protocol Television (IPTV) is included under the jurisdiction of the bill

- Maintaining a local role in addressing consumer complaints about service

Still of major concern to local government organizations is the lack of build-out requirements. As a result, the organizations are supporting an amendment by Senators Barbara Boxer (D-CA) and John Kerry (D-MA) that would require telephone companies to provide video services in their entire service areas within a three-year period.

Also of concern are a number of proposed amendments that would roll back local authority, including language to: reduce the franchise fee to three percent of gross revenues; ban new state and local taxes on wireless service; reduce PEG funding; eliminate local control over right-of-way management, and impose a permanent extension of the moratorium on state and local taxation of Internet access fees (the current moratorium expires in November 2007).

The committee is expected to resume consideration of S 2686 on Tuesday, June 27.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

House panel clears Justice spending measure. The House Appropriations Committee cleared the FY 2007 Department of Justice Appropriations Bill (HR 5672). In a victory for local governments, House appropriators rejected the Administration's proposal to slash local law enforcement assistance programs by more than \$1 billion from the FY 2006 level.

However, the victory is in many ways overshadowed by the fact that the bill still cuts funding for local law enforcement assistance by \$172 million from last year. That cut would come in the wake of annual cuts since FY 2001, when local law

enforcement assistance funding reached its apex of \$4.2 billion.

Overall, the bill includes \$2.6 billion for local law enforcement assistance. Funding for other specific programs (with difference from FY 2006 in parentheses) includes:

- \$368 million for Byrne Formula Grants (+\$50 million)
- \$115 million for Byrne Discretionary Grants (-\$74 million)
- \$405 million for State Criminal Alien Assistance (+\$6 million)
- \$571 million for COPS (+\$98 million)
- \$281 million for Juvenile Justice (-\$58 million)
- \$49 million for Juvenile Accountability Block Grants (same)
- \$390 million for Violence Against Women (+\$9 million).

The bill now heads to the House floor. The House is expected to pass it next week before the July 4 recess.

CLEAN WATER

Supreme Court fails to reach consensus on Clean Water Act. A deeply divided Supreme Court failed to reach a majority opinion that would have clearly established the extent of federal jurisdiction over wetlands and other nonnavigable waterways. In the cases, *Rapanos v. United States* and *Carabell v. Army Corps of Engineers*, the Justices were only able to agree to remand both cases back to the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals for further study and consideration as to whether the wetland in question are “waters of the United States” as defined in the Clean Water Act.

Both cases involved property owners in Michigan who were denied permission by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to develop their properties because doing so would have required the dredging and filling in of wetlands. The Clean Water Act specifically prohibits the dredging or filling of waters subject to federal jurisdiction. Both property owners sued,

arguing that the Corps exceeded the mandate under the Clean Water Act because the wetlands in question did not have a permanent connection to any navigable body of water and were thus not under federal jurisdiction.

The Sixth Circuit ruled against the property owners and they both appealed. The cases were consolidated for review by the Supreme Court partly in the hope that the Court would set a bright line standard as to which bodies of water were subject to the Corps of Engineers permitting process under the Clean Water Act.

The extent of Corps jurisdiction over wetlands and other nonnavigable bodies of water has remained unclear ever since the Supreme Court in 2001 ruled in *Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County v. Corps of Engineers* that the presence of migratory birds on an intrastate non-navigable body of water did not suffice to give the Corps permitting authority. That ruling created havoc with the Corps permitting process.

Although the Corps has attempted to address the uncertainty created by the 2001 ruling, their proposed rule has encountered stiff opposition from environmental organizations and in Congress, including efforts in Congress to block the rule (see the May 26 *Washington Report*).

The Supreme Court did agree, however, that the Corps has been derelict in not issuing new regulations in the wake of the 2001 decision and urged that it do so forthwith. In a statement, the Corps said it is reviewing the decision and will react accordingly.

Most Clean Water Act experts from both sides of the issue agree that in the wake of this week’s ruling, the Corps will have to act to clearly define which waters fall under its jurisdiction under the Clean Water Act. However, given the difficulty the Corps has faced in issuing new regulations on this topic to date and the controversy surrounding this issue that may be easier said than done. In the meantime, observers from both sides of the issue agree that conflicts arising out of the Corps

permitting process will continue to be decided in the Courts on a case by case basis.

HUMAN SERVICES

House approves reauthorization of Older Americans Act. The House of Representatives easily approved legislation (HR 5293) that would reauthorize the 1965 Older Americans Act for five years.

The measure covers all of the programs at the Administration on Aging at the Department of Health and Human Services, including Meals on Wheels and other nutrition programs for the elderly, transportation assistance, legal aid, and health care referrals. Those programs were funded at a total of \$1.2 billion in FY 2006.

It also reauthorizes the Senior Community Service Employment Program at the Department of Labor. The Bush Administration had suggested changes to that program that would have de-emphasized the community service aspect of the program to focus more on job training opportunities. After resistance from Democrats, sponsors of the bill crafted a compromise that reflected the White House position by placing more of a focus on job training while maintaining that funds will also be spent to continue the community service aspect of the program.

The Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee has scheduled a markup on June 28 of its version of the bill, which has yet to be introduced.

BUDGET

House, Senate continues work on line-item veto. The House of Representatives approved legislation (HR 4890) this week that would give the President limited authority to eliminate single provisions from legislation that is signed into law.

Under the proposal, the President would have 45 days after the signing of a bill to send Congress a proposed list of rescissions. The President would have the ability to send five “packages” of line-item vetoes per bill and up to 10 packages for an omnibus appropriations

or reconciliation bills. Congress must then approve the rescissions packages before they can be formally removed from the bills. It is that process that sponsors believe solves the Constitutional problems that have plagued past line-item veto proposals.

The Senate Budget Committee approved a similar plan as part of legislation designed to force Congress to confront its growing deficit. The legislation (S 3521) would set strict deficit caps each year through 2012 and if those targets are not met, automatic cuts in discretionary and mandatory programs would be made. Overall, tax cuts would not be eligible for such reductions, igniting a charge from Democrats that the proposal would endanger Medicare, Medicaid, and veterans' entitlement programs while protecting tax cuts for the wealthy.

As a result, Democrats are expected to filibuster the legislation should it reach the Senate floor, making its passage unlikely.

ENERGY

House Energy and Commerce Committee approves clean energy infrastructure grant program. On June 20, the House approved a bill (HR 5534) to develop an Alternative Fuels Expansion Grant Program.

Introduced by Rep. Michael Rogers (R-MI), HR 5534 would authorize grants to programs designed to expand the availability to consumers of alternative fuels. Funding for the program would come from fines levied on automobile manufacturers that exceed federal fuel economy standards. Under the bill, those fines would be deposited in a special Treasury account that could only be used to fund the new grant program.

The Energy Department would administer the grants under the umbrella of its existing Clean Cities Program. Eligible uses of the grants would be the construction or expansion of infrastructure necessary to increase the availability to consumers of alternative fuels including:

- Methanol,
- Denatured ethanol,
- Other alcohols,
- Natural gas,
- Liquefied petroleum gas,

- Hydrogen,
- Coal derived liquid fuels,
- Fuels (except alcohol) derived from biological materials,
- Electricity (including electricity from solar energy) and
- Any other fuel the Secretary of Transportation prescribes by regulation that is not substantially petroleum and that would yield substantial energy security and environmental benefits.

Eligible applicants would be states, cities and metropolitan transportation agencies, with preference to those partnering with private sector and nonprofit entities (though large oil companies are not eligible to apply). Grants would be capped at \$30,000 each and no applicant would be allowed to receive more than \$60,000 per calendar year.

The bill now heads to the House floor, where it is expected to be considered under suspension of the rules, an expedited process that prohibits amendments and requires two-thirds approval for passage.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Department of Health and Human Services: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has announced FY 2006 funding for the Public Health Emergency Preparedness program. There is \$761 million available to award 62 cooperative agreements that enhance the emergency-ready capabilities of public health departments. Funds will be divided among last year's recipients, with each state receiving \$3.91 million plus a relative share based on the state's population. New York City, Los Angeles County, the District of Columbia, and Chicago will each receive a base of \$5 million. However, the CDC plans to alter the funding allocations beginning next year to a more competitive process based on performance and the merits of the application. Applications are due July 15, 2006, and awards are expected to be made August 31, 2006. For more information:

<http://www.bt.cdc.gov/planning/coopagreement/>.

**Actual Compared to
Projected Sales Tax Collections**

	2005-06 PROJECTED	2005-06 ACTUAL	VARIANCE FROM PROJECTED	\$ CHANGE FR. 04-05	% CHANGE FR. 04-05
SEPTEMBER	\$4,521,210	\$4,549,328	\$28,118	\$37,025	0.82%
OCTOBER	\$4,738,362	\$4,464,503	(\$273,859)	(\$76,968)	-1.69%
NOVEMBER	\$4,743,930	\$4,625,303	(\$118,627)	\$39,042	0.85%
DECEMBER	\$4,420,986	\$4,505,085	\$84,099	\$330,257	7.91%
JANUARY	\$4,632,570	\$4,073,189	(\$559,381)	\$30,145	0.75%
FEBRUARY	\$5,740,599	\$5,724,498	(\$16,101)	\$31,981	0.56%
MARCH	\$4,191,410	\$4,082,038	(\$109,372)	\$22,404	0.55%
APRIL	\$3,957,554	\$3,794,477	(\$163,077)	(\$233,611)	-5.80%
MAY	\$4,620,145	\$4,376,803	(\$243,342)	(\$231,231)	-5.02%
JUNE	\$4,464,241	\$4,525,529	\$61,288	\$2,605	0.06%
JULY	\$4,536,625				
AUGUST	\$4,837,297				
TOTAL	\$55,404,929	\$44,720,754	(\$1,310,253)	-\$48,351	-0.12%

**CITY OF LINCOLN
GROSS SALES TAX COLLECTIONS
(WITH REFUNDS ADDED BACK IN)
2000-2001 THROUGH 2005-2006**

	ACTUAL 2000-2001	ACTUAL 2001-2002	ACTUAL 2002-2003	ACTUAL 2003-2004	% CHG. FR. PRIOR YEAR	ACTUAL 2004-2005	% CHG. FR. PRIOR YEAR	ACTUAL 2005-2006	% CHG. FR. PRIOR YEAR
SEPTEMBER	\$3,758,935	\$3,844,150	\$4,239,938	\$4,453,875	5.05%	\$4,648,160	4.36%	\$4,630,210	-0.39%
OCTOBER	\$4,273,028	\$4,116,763	\$4,464,191	\$4,670,587	4.62%	\$4,706,690	0.77%	\$4,823,369	2.48%
NOVEMBER	\$4,060,765	\$4,125,824	\$4,407,744	\$4,526,166	2.69%	\$4,687,792	3.57%	\$4,799,275	2.38%
DECEMBER	\$3,824,569	\$3,855,906	\$4,034,958	\$4,314,111	6.92%	\$4,500,338	4.32%	\$4,511,403	0.25%
JANUARY	\$3,968,572	\$4,140,990	\$4,046,633	\$4,335,924	7.15%	\$4,264,010	-1.66%	\$4,342,902	1.85%
FEBRUARY	\$4,895,886	\$4,982,568	\$5,224,986	\$5,531,405	5.86%	\$6,086,841	10.04%	\$5,797,893	-4.75%
MARCH	\$3,731,090	\$3,908,567	\$4,076,943	\$3,980,041	-2.38%	\$4,158,874	4.49%	\$4,247,908	2.14%
APRIL	\$3,126,694	\$3,641,403	\$3,711,803	\$3,889,388	4.78%	\$4,097,988	5.36%	\$3,991,159	-2.61%
MAY	\$4,061,857	\$3,949,873	\$4,184,028	\$4,602,788	10.01%	\$4,730,317	2.77%	\$4,543,369	-3.95%
JUNE	\$3,741,325	\$3,856,119	\$4,169,550	\$4,599,245	10.31%	\$4,557,735	-0.90%	\$4,539,614	-0.40%
JULY	\$3,804,895	\$4,033,350	\$4,105,554	\$4,391,257	6.96%	\$4,519,466	2.92%		
AUGUST	\$4,093,476	\$4,231,174	\$4,402,156	\$4,893,438	11.16%	\$4,803,665	-1.83%		
TOTAL	\$47,341,091	\$48,686,688	\$51,068,484	\$54,188,225	6.11%	\$55,761,877	2.90%	\$46,227,103	-0.46%

Year to date vs.
previous year

**CITY OF LINCOLN
SALES TAX REFUNDS
2000-2001 THROUGH 2005-2006**

	ACTUAL 2000-2001	ACTUAL 2001-2002	ACTUAL 2002-2003	ACTUAL 2003-2004	% CHG. FR. PRIOR YEAR	ACTUAL 2004-2005	% CHG. FR. PRIOR YEAR	ACTUAL 2005-2006	% CHG. FR. PRIOR YEAR
SEPTEMBER	(\$472,215)	(\$646,545)	(\$48,531)	(\$69,997)	44.23%	(\$135,858)	94.09%	(\$80,882)	-40.47%
OCTOBER	(\$127,363)	(\$379,290)	(\$64,605)	(\$110,193)	70.56%	(\$165,219)	49.94%	(\$358,866)	117.21%
NOVEMBER	(\$448,872)	(\$132,336)	(\$134,088)	(\$219,454)	63.66%	(\$101,531)	-53.73%	(\$173,972)	71.35%
DECEMBER	(\$193,085)	(\$240,014)	(\$177,459)	(\$390,445)	120.02%	(\$325,510)	-16.63%	(\$6,319)	-98.06%
JANUARY	(\$352,999)	(\$74,082)	(\$306,467)	(\$59,315)	-80.65%	(\$220,967)	272.53%	(\$269,713)	22.06%
FEBRUARY	(\$115,206)	(\$509,277)	(\$61,404)	(\$323,218)	426.38%	(\$394,324)	22.00%	(\$73,395)	-81.39%
MARCH	(\$303,779)	(\$428,507)	(\$17,601)	(\$22,759)	29.30%	(\$99,240)	336.05%	(\$165,869)	67.14%
APRIL	(\$478,438)	(\$333,878)	(\$281,861)	(\$199,018)	-29.39%	(\$69,900)	-64.88%	(\$196,682)	181.38%
MAY	(\$79,461)	(\$176,292)	(\$275,081)	(\$155,787)	-43.37%	(\$122,283)	-21.51%	(\$166,567)	36.21%
JUNE	(\$47,618)	(\$127,168)	(\$138,914)	(\$194,593)	40.08%	(\$34,811)	-82.11%	(\$14,085)	-59.54%
JULY	(\$235,932)	(\$181,863)	(\$563,339)	(\$42,086)	-92.53%	(\$162,998)	287.30%	(\$39,492)	-75.77%
AUGUST	\$0	(\$63,949)	(\$341,868)	(\$531,884)	55.58%	(\$148,028)	-72.17%		
TOTAL	(\$2,854,968)	(\$3,293,201)	(\$2,411,218)	(\$2,318,751)	-3.83%	(\$1,980,668)	-14.58%	(\$1,545,841)	-15.65%

Year to date vs.
previous year

**CITY OF LINCOLN
NET SALES TAX COLLECTIONS
2000-2001 THROUGH 2005-2006**

	ACTUAL 2000-2001	ACTUAL 2001-2002	ACTUAL 2002-2003	ACTUAL 2003-2004	% CHG. FROM PR. YEAR	ACTUAL 2004-2005	% CHG. FROM PR. YEAR	ACTUAL 2005-2006	% CHG. FROM PR. YEAR
SEPTEMBER	\$3,286,720	\$3,197,606	\$4,191,407	\$4,383,878	4.59%	\$4,512,303	2.93%	\$4,549,328	0.82%
OCTOBER	\$4,145,665	\$3,737,474	\$4,399,587	\$4,560,394	3.66%	\$4,541,471	-0.41%	\$4,464,503	-1.69%
NOVEMBER	\$3,611,894	\$3,993,488	\$4,273,655	\$4,306,712	0.77%	\$4,586,261	6.49%	\$4,625,303	0.85%
DECEMBER	\$3,631,485	\$3,615,893	\$3,857,499	\$3,923,666	1.72%	\$4,174,828	6.40%	\$4,505,085	7.91%
JANUARY	\$3,615,574	\$4,066,908	\$3,740,166	\$4,276,609	14.34%	\$4,043,044	-5.46%	\$4,073,189	0.75%
FEBRUARY	\$4,780,680	\$4,473,291	\$5,163,582	\$5,208,187	0.86%	\$5,692,517	9.30%	\$5,724,498	0.56%
MARCH	\$3,427,311	\$3,480,060	\$4,059,342	\$3,957,283	-2.51%	\$4,059,634	2.59%	\$4,082,038	0.55%
APRIL	\$2,648,256	\$3,307,525	\$3,429,942	\$3,690,371	7.59%	\$4,028,088	9.15%	\$3,794,477	-5.80%
MAY	\$3,982,395	\$3,773,581	\$3,908,947	\$4,447,001	13.76%	\$4,608,034	3.62%	\$4,376,803	-5.02%
JUNE	\$3,693,707	\$3,728,951	\$4,030,637	\$4,404,651	9.28%	\$4,522,924	2.69%	\$4,525,529	0.06%
JULY	\$3,568,964	\$3,851,488	\$3,542,215	\$4,349,171	22.78%	\$4,356,468	0.17%		
AUGUST	\$4,093,476	\$4,167,224	\$4,060,288	\$4,361,554	7.42%	\$4,655,637	6.74%		
TOTAL	\$44,486,126	\$45,393,489	\$48,657,267	\$51,869,477	6.60%	\$53,781,209	3.69%	\$44,720,754	-0.11%
									Year to date vs. previous year



NEWS RELEASE

MAYOR COLEEN J. SENG



LINCOLN-LANCASTER COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

3140 N Street, Lincoln NE 68510 • Phone: 441-8000

Fax: 441-8323 or 441-6229

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 28, 2006

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Jim Weverka, Animal Control Manager, 441-7900

JULY 4TH PET SAFETY

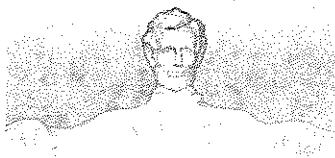
The week of July 4th is one of the busiest times of the year for Animal Control. The booms and crackles of fireworks can be very disturbing to many pets. As these sounds carry on for long periods of time, pets can become increasingly upset, and do things that are uncharacteristic under normal conditions. Every year, Animal Control receives reports of 20 to 25 pets missing when they become confused, disoriented and exhausted from the annual fireworks. The continuous noise often drives an animal to break its leash, jump a fence, or even crash through a window in order to escape the unbearable surroundings. Pets that are startled are also more likely to bite. If you have company over for the holiday you may want to keep your pet in another room to ensure your guests' safety.

The Animal Control Division of the Lincoln - Lancaster Health Department encourages you to protect your pet this July 4th. Here are some hints to help the noise-phobic pet:

- Exercise your dog late in the morning of Independence Day. This may help him or her sleep through the fireworks.
- Walk your dog and let it relieve itself a few hours before the fireworks begin.
- Don't leave your pet outdoors.
- Stay at home with your pet.
- Close the doggie door so your pet can't leap out in a panic and possibly bite someone.
- Shut windows, draw curtains, and close blinds. Run the air conditioner and/or fans.
- Turn on the radio or television to muffle the outside noises.
- Convert an interior room of your house into your pet's sanctuary, include their favorite toy and t-shirts with your scent for comfort.
- Distract your pet with a favorite game, toy or treat.
- Contact your veterinarian. An adult pet's sudden reaction to loud sounds could signal a medical condition. Your pet may need anti-anxiety medication to get through the holiday.
- If you are unable to care for your pet during the holiday, consider boarding it at a kennel.

Some dogs tolerate the noise and excitement of the 4th well enough to join their owners for festivities. If your dog stays outside, do not tether it to picnic tables, playground equipment, or other structures on which the tether could easily become tangled and endanger the dog's life.

####



CITY OF LINCOLN
NEBRASKA

MAYOR COLEEN J. SENG

lincoln.ne.gov

Lincoln-Lancaster County
Planning Department
Marvin S. Krout, Director

Jon Carlson, Chair
City-County Planning Commission

555 South 10th Street
Suite 213
Lincoln, Nebraska 68508
402-441-7491
fax: 402-441-6377

June 26, 2006

Nichole Pecka
EDC
2200 Fletcher Avenue Ste 102
Lincoln, NE 68521

RE: Thompson Creek 2nd Addition - Final Plat #06007
Generally located at Thompson Creek Blvd and Nashway Road

Dear Nicole,

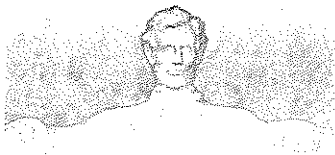
Thompson Creek 2nd Addition - Final Plat #06007, generally located at Thompson Creek Blvd and Nashway Road was approved by the Planning Director on June 23, 2006. The plat and the subdivision agreement must be recorded in the Register of Deeds. The fee is determined at \$.50 per **existing** lot and per **new** lot and \$20.00 per plat sheet for the plat, and \$.50 per **new** lot and \$5.00 per page for associated documents such as the subdivision agreement. If you have a question about the fees, please contact the Register of Deeds. Please make check payable to the Lancaster County Register of Deeds. The Register of Deeds requests a list of all new lots and blocks created by the plat be attached to the subdivision agreement so the agreement can be recorded on each new lot.

Pursuant to § 26.11.060(d) of the Lincoln Municipal Code, this approval may be appealed to the Planning Commission and any decision of the Planning Commission to the City Council by filing a letter of appeal within 14 days of the action being appealed. The plat will be recorded with the Register of Deeds after the appeal period has lapsed (date + 14 days), and the recording fee and signed subdivision agreement have been received.

Sincerely,

Brian Will
Planner

xc: Thompson Creek, LLC, 3801 Union Drive, Lincoln, NE 68516
✓ City Council
Dennis Bartels, Public Works & Utilities
Terry Kathe, Building & Safety
Sharon Theobald, Lincoln Electric
File



CITY OF LINCOLN
NEBRASKA

MAYOR COLEEN J. SENG

lincoln.ne.gov

Lincoln-Lancaster County
Planning Department
Marvin S. Krout, Director

Jon Carlson, Chair
City-County Planning Commission

555 South 10th Street
Suite 213
Lincoln, Nebraska 68508
402-441-7491
fax: 402-441-6377

June 26, 2006

Michael Johnson
Olsson Associates
1111 Lincoln Mall
Lincoln, NE 68505

RE: Heritage Lakes 3rd Addition - Final Plat #05005
Generally located at South 95th Street and Pine Lake Road

Dear Mike,

Heritage Lakes 3rd Addition, Final Plat #05005, generally located at South 95th Street and Pine Lake Road was approved by the Planning Director on June 23, 2006. The plat and the subdivision agreement must be recorded in the Register of Deeds. The fee is determined at \$.50 per **existing** lot and per **new** lot and \$20.00 per plat sheet for the plat, and \$.50 per **new** lot and \$5.00 per page for associated documents such as the subdivision agreement. If you have a question about the fees, please contact the Register of Deeds. Please make check payable to the Lancaster County Register of Deeds. The Register of Deeds requests a list of all new lots and blocks created by the plat be attached to the subdivision agreement so the agreement can be recorded on each new lot.

Pursuant to § 26.11.060(d) of the Lincoln Municipal Code, this approval may be appealed to the Planning Commission and any decision of the Planning Commission to the City Council by filing a letter of appeal within 14 days of the action being appealed. The plat will be recorded with the Register of Deeds after the appeal period has lapsed (date + 14 days), and the recording fee and signed subdivision agreement have been received.

Sincerely,

Brian Will
Planner

xc: Gary Kort, 5950 VanDerVoort Drive, Ste B, Lincoln, NE 68516
✓ City Council
Dennis Bartels, Public Works & Utilities
Terry Kathe, Building & Safety
Sharon Theobald, Lincoln Electric
File


**PLANNING COMMISSION FINAL ACTION
NOTIFICATION**

TO : Mayor Coleen Seng
Lincoln City Council

FROM : Jean Walker, Planning

DATE : June 22, 2006

RE : **Special Permit No. 06037**
(Friedens Lutheran Church - 540 D Street)
Resolution No. PC-01003



The Lincoln City-Lancaster County Planning Commission took the following action at their regular meeting on Wednesday, June 21, 2006:

Motion made by Carroll, seconded by Strand, to approve **Special Permit No. 06037**, with conditions, requested by Friedens Lutheran Church, for authority to expand a nonstandard church into the required side and front yards to construct an addition to the existing structure located at 540 D Street.

Motion for conditional approval carried 8-0 (Cornelius, Carroll, Taylor, Sunderman, Strand, Larson, Krieser and Carlson voting 'yes'; Esseks absent).

The Planning Commission's action is final, unless appealed to the City Council by filing a Letter of Appeal with the City Clerk within 14 days of the date of the action by the Planning Commission.

Attachment

cc: Building & Safety
Rick Peo, City Attorney
Public Works
Jim Berg, 121 S. 13th Street, Suite 200, 68508
Al Scribner, Friedens Lutheran Church, 540 D Street, 68502
Danny Walker, South Salt Creek Community Org., 427 E Street, 68508
Gary Irvin, South Salt Creek Neighborhood, 645 D Street, 68522

i:\shared\wp\jlu\2006 ccnotice.sp\SP.06037

RESOLUTION NO. PC- 01003

SPECIAL PERMIT NO. 06037

1 WHEREAS, Friedens Lutheran Church has submitted an application
2 designated as Special Permit No. 06037 for authority to expand a nonstandard church
3 into the required side and front yards to construct an addition to the existing structure
4 located at 540 D Street, and legally described as:

5 Lot 6, Block 193, Original Town of Lincoln, Lancaster
6 County, Nebraska; and

7 WHEREAS, the Lincoln City-Lancaster County Planning Commission has
8 held a public hearing on said application; and

9 WHEREAS, the community as a whole, the surrounding neighborhood,
10 and the real property adjacent to the area included within the site plan for this expansion
11 of a non-standard church will not be adversely affected by granting such a permit; and

12 WHEREAS, said site plan together with the terms and conditions
13 hereinafter set forth are consistent with the comprehensive plan of the City of Lincoln
14 and with the intent and purpose of Title 27 of the Lincoln Municipal Code to promote the
15 public health, safety, and general welfare.

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Lincoln City-Lancaster
17 County Planning Commission of Lincoln, Nebraska:

1 That the application of Friedens Lutheran Church, hereinafter referred to
2 as "Permittee", to expand a nonstandard church into the required side and front yards to
3 construct an addition to the church on property described above be and the same is
4 hereby granted under the provisions of Section 27.63.280 of the Lincoln Municipal Code
5 upon condition that construction of said addition be in strict compliance with said
6 application, the site plan, and the following additional express terms, conditions, and
7 requirements:

8 1. This permit approves the expansion of a nonstandard use to allow an
9 addition onto the building consistent with the site plan. The construction plans shall be
10 submitted for review by the Historic Preservation Commission and a preservation
11 certificate be issued prior to issuance of a building permit, such review to be conducted
12 in accord with the procedures outlined in LMC27.57 (Historic Preservation District).

13 2. Before receiving building permits:

14 a. The Permittee shall submit five copies of a revised site plan,
15 showing the setbacks from the church to all property lines and
16 delete the setback dimensions measured to the back of the curb, to
17 the Planning Department for review and approval.

18 b. The construction plans must comply with the approved plans.

19 3. Before occupying the building, all development and construction must
20 comply with the approved plans.

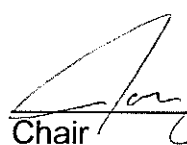
21 4. The site plan approved by this permit shall be the basis for all
22 interpretations of setbacks, yards, locations of buildings, location of parking and
23 circulation elements, and similar matters.

1 5. This resolution's terms, conditions, and requirements bind and obligate the
2 Permittee, its successors and assigns.

3 6. The Permittee shall sign and return the letter of acceptance to the City
4 Clerk within 30 days following the approval of the special permit, provided, however,
5 said 30-day period may be extended up to six months by administrative amendment.
6 The clerk shall file a copy of the resolution approving the special permit and the letter of
7 acceptance with the Register of Deeds, filling fees therefor to be paid in advance by the
8 applicant.

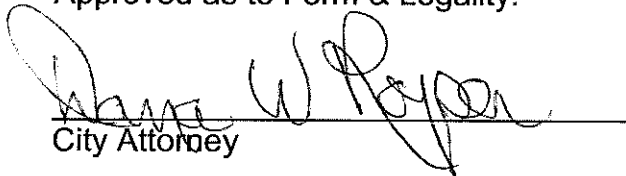
9 The foregoing Resolution was approved by the Lincoln City-Lancaster
10 County Planning Commission on this 21 day of June, 2006.

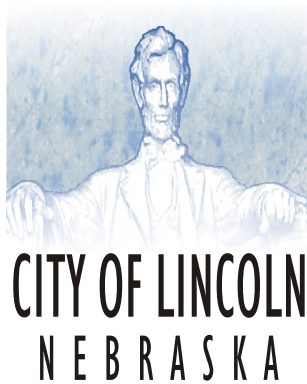
ATTEST:


Chair

COPY

Approved as to Form & Legality:


City Attorney



PUBLIC WORKS & UTILITIES ADVISORY

MAYOR COLEEN J. SENG

www.ci.lincoln.ne.us

June 26, 2006

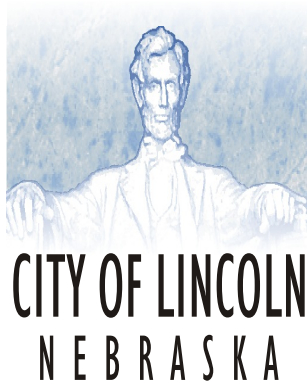
Water Capital Improvement Project #700273 11th Street; L - Lincoln Mall

The City of Lincoln Public Works Department Engineering Services Division would like to advise you that a bid for the utility construction has been awarded to Skoda Construction. This private contractor plans to start on 11th Street on Friday, June 30, 2006.

The installation of the replacement water main is going to be installed on the west side of 11th Street. There may be times while the main is being installed that you will not be able to access your driveway. After the installation is complete, the new main has to be tested and chlorinated before the services are transferred. The area will then be cleaned up and the pavement, driveways and sidewalks replaced.

The length of the construction period is a concern to most people. Unfortunately Nebraska' uncertain weather, combined with the complexity of the construction work, will dictate the amount of time the work will take. However, the Sunday Journal Star does run a list of street closings along with a probable opening date for the street.

While the City has contracted with a private firm to do the work, a City of Lincoln Project Manager will be overseeing the project to ensure that the work is done properly and as quickly as possible. If you have any questions, you may contact Steven Faust with the City of Lincoln Engineering Services Division at 441-7711 or Ron Skoda with Skoda Construction at 489-9027.



PUBLIC WORKS & UTILITIES ADVISORY

MAYOR COLEEN J. SENG

www.ci.lincoln.ne.us

June 28, 2006

STORM SEWER BOND ISSUE PROJECT TO START PROJECT #702190

Within the new few days, the City of Lincoln Public Works & Utilities Department will be starting a storm sewer project in your area. We are issuing this advisory because your neighborhood will be affected by this construction.

- **The reason for the work and limits of the construction are as follows:**
This construction will replace the existing storm sewer system with new pipes and inlets which will increase the capacity and improve storm water drainage. The limits of construction will be from approximately 69th and Walker to 69th and Leighton.
- **Construction Schedule:**
The Contractor for this project is TCW Construction Inc. Their schedule is to begin work Wednesday, July 5, 2006 at Walker Avenue proceeding south to 69th and Leighton. Weather permitting and barring unforeseen conditions, they plan to be completed with the project in approximately four weeks.
- **Temporary Inconvenience:**
The City of Lincoln realizes this construction project may temporarily inconvenience you. The contractor will try to maintain access to individual properties but at times may have to close the access during that portion of the project.
- **Commonly Asked Questions:**
Q: Will this project cost me directly?
A: No not directly, but as a taxpayer we all share in the costs of community improvements.

Q: If my driveway or sidewalk is damaged or removed, will it be replaced?
A: Yes.

Q: If my lawn is disturbed by the construction activities, will it be restored to its original condition?
A: Yes, the earthwork will be completed as needed and sod will be placed in the disturbed areas.
- **Contacts for this project if you have questions:**
Jerry Heathershaw
TCW Construction Inc.
(402) 475-5030

Brian Dittmann, Project Manager
City of Lincoln, Engineering Services
(402) 525-5646

Bryan Oakeson
823 Daybreak Drive
Lincoln Ne. 68505

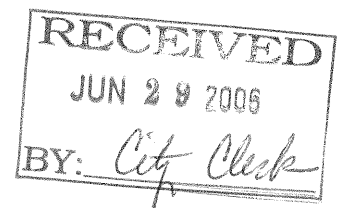
June 27, 2006

Lincoln City Council:

After listening to the Sidewalk Issue on June 26 I need to address some of my thoughts.

1. I see no reason for sidewalks on both sides of 84th because of the sidewalk that runs on my property. When we moved in our house in 1985 they said no sidewalk would be put along 84th because of the Pedestrian easement on our property. I don't take people traffic counts but I do know I don't see people walking along the east side of 84th street north of Vine. "There is no cow path".
2. If a sidewalk is ordered why should the people along 84th pay for the construction costs ? Isn't it enough that we had to pay for sidewalks along the front of our property. I see no reason to pay for sidewalks along our back yard that we don't use. My house and Lot plans show that area along 84th a Utility Easement. No mention of sidewalk.
3. Lets put the 84th street project to rest. People use the Biker path on the east side of 84th and can cross with a pedestrian light at the corner of 84th and Vine. I see it every day and don't see any problems.
4. Please take a good look at our situation. If we didn't have a sidewalk in front of our house I would not have a problem with this. But a sidewalk along our backyard. Did the property owners along bike paths that run along there back yards have to pay for the construction of that bike path?

Bryan Oakeson





campjon@aol.com
06/28/2006 09:55 AM

To tgrammer@ci.lincoln.ne.us
cc
bcc
Subject Fwd: budget

Jon Camp
Lincoln City Council
City Council Office: 441-8793

-----Original Message-----

From: RJFillaus@aol.com
To: jcamp@lincoln.ne.gov
Sent: Tue, 27 Jun 2006 20:33:38 EDT
Subject: budget

Mr. Jon Camp

As a Lincoln Citizen for the past 40 years I am asking that you attempt to reduce our tax and fee burden. Yes, it is becoming a burden. I realize that cutting programs is very difficult and the council and Mayor are subjected to severe criticism from the areas eliminated and the press. I saw this with the elimination of the women's commission, a handful of protesters held the county commissioners hostage. That is not right. I am asking that you not only vote down Mayor Seng's budget but propose another with tax and fee savings for all Lincolniters.

It is remarkable to me that we pay much more for fees than for usage, this occurs with the water and sewer bill and telephone bill and would appear that is going to be the case with the garbage bill now.

My tax bill for 2005 was over 56% of my gross income. I am including social security and Medicare payments but not including sales tax expenditures as that is difficult to calculate. My wife and I both work over 50 hours each and every week. We enjoy a good lifestyle but I believe we have earned that right. The cost of living increases as does the tax and fee structure and there is a limit to the number of hours one can work.

Please look out for the wage earner of Lincoln, we are the silent minority. We just go about paying that extra 40 cents a day or that 2 dollars a month (that is how tax and fee increases are presented). Please reduce the tax burden one time. Give us our money back. Quit taking from us and take from city financed programs.

Thank you
Bob Fillaus

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campjon@aol.com
06/28/2006 10:04 AM

To tgrammer@ci.lincoln.ne.us
cc
bcc
Subject Fwd: City Budget

Jon Camp
Lincoln City Council
City Council Office: 441-8793

-----Original Message-----

From: bjones9@neb.rr.com
To: jcamp@lincoln.ne.gov
Sent: Tue, 27 Jun 2006 18:54:43 -0500
Subject: City Budget

Dear Mr. Camp,

I am writing you as a concerned citizen in reference to the Mayor's proposed city budget. I would like to encourage you to not support the Mayor's proposal of taking full advantage of the recent property tax revaluation and not lowering the city's levy on property. I believe that any increase over and above inflation and/or cost of living is not justified.

I would encourage the city council to explore making cuts to those portions of the city budget that are non-essential or frivolous.

As a citizen and taxpayer trying to provide for a family, I can tell you that I for one cannot afford higher property taxes. Since moving to Lincoln several years ago I have watched my taxes and expenses rise in part, because city government's answer to budget problems seems to be more taxes rather than fiscal restraint.

I will be watching with interest how the city council addresses the budget process in the coming months and weeks.

Thank you for your time and service to the city.

Sincerely,

Bryan Jones

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CITY COUNCIL OF LINCOLN NEBRASKA

555 South 10th Street • Lincoln, NE 68508 • 402-441-7515

FAX: 402-441-6533 • E-MAIL: council@lincoln.ne.gov

ROBIN ESCHLIMAN
City Council Member At Large

June 23, 2006

Dear City Directors,

During this budget season I know that the Council will be faced with difficult decisions involving budget cuts. While this is certainly a given, one thing that I would like to recognize is that the time comes when we just need to increase income to our city.

We always talk about raising fees to our customers, and no doubt you have explored this in depth in recent months. However, I would like to brainstorm with you new, unusual, and creative ideas for increasing income for your department that have never been done before. Perhaps it might take an investment to get the idea started, but perhaps it is an investment that would pay dividends. Here are just a few ideas:

- ✓ Could your department justify the cost of advertising to the public (more than just Channel 5) an event or activity that is an income generator? For example, we advertise the bus service but we don't advertise our swimming pools.
- ✓ Has your department innovated a process, product, or idea for which you could receive consulting fees?
- ✓ Is your department criticized for contracting for a vendor or service that is located out of town, but you feel you must do so because their company is cheaper? What if we asked that company to locate its headquarters or a branch office in Lincoln and create more jobs?
- ✓ Does your department have the ability to bring in a convention/trade show, as the Women's Commission did recently, or tourists/visitors? If we invested money in this, could we project some returns?
- ✓ Could your department utilize technology to produce revenue? For example, the Omaha libraries have talked about offering, at a cost, links on their website to the local bookstores, so that if a patron cannot find what they are looking for, they can buy the book locally.
- ✓ Could your department benefit from a fundraiser or grant writer position that would more than pay for itself?

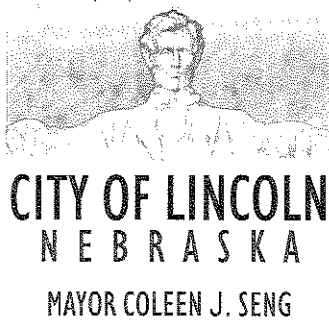
It is discouraging to work with limited budgets year after year with no reward. Perhaps this exercise in creativity could be a morale-booster to your staff. Certainly, all ideas would have to be analyzed as to their legality and financial practicality, but if it makes sense, I will do all I can to help you implement the idea.

Please get back to me with your ideas by July 3, as this is when the Council kicks off its budget season.

Cordially,

Robin Eschliman

Robin Eschliman



lincoln.ne.gov

Lincoln-Lancaster
Women's Commission
Bonnie Coffey, Director
440 South 8th Street
Suite 100
Lincoln, Nebraska 68508-2294
402-441-7716
fax: 402-441-6824
llwc@lincoln.ne.gov



RECEIVED

JUN 29 2006

CITY COUNCIL

TO: OFFICE Robin Eschliman/Lincoln City Council
FROM: Bonnie Coffey/Lincoln-Lancaster Women's Commission
DATE: 6/27/06
SUBJECT: Concealed Carry Law Issues

Robin, the questions you ask are hard to find answers for, but here is some information that may help:

A significant amount of the "research demonstrating crime drops" is funded and/or conducted by proponents and opponents of concealed carry, rather than by neutral, objective researchers who publish their work in peer-reviewed academic journals, and who submit their data and their work to the critique of the academic community. This makes it difficult to find definitive information. The proponents of concealed carry today normally cite More Guns, Less Crime by John Lott and David Mustard as their definitive proof that concealed carry reduces crime. This book has been roundly criticized by the opposite side for its allegedly flawed methodology and allegedly incorrect conclusions. A copy of a study refuting Lott and Mustard is attached.

In general, crime is falling across the nation due to demographic factors. In the most recent five years of data currently available, 1999 through 2004, violent crime in Nebraska fell 35%--from 7,172 offenses to 5,302--without a concealed weapon law. One study demonstrated that states with no concealed weapons laws or with strict concealed carry laws had a much larger drop in crime than those that adopted a concealed carry law like the one Nebraska will enact on January 1.

In Texas, concealed weapon permit holders committed over 5,300 crimes or about 2.5 per day over a five and a half year period.

As for crimes against women, we should consider what domestic violence advocacy organizations, including Friendship Home, Rape/Spouse Abuse Crisis Center and the Family Violence Council said last week in opposing concealed weapons in Lincoln:

Nebraska's concealed weapon law allows those convicted of crimes such as stalking, violation of a protection order, and impersonating a police officer to receive concealed weapon permits.

Testimony presented to the Legislature's Judiciary Committee by the domestic violence community in 2003 points out that for each time a woman used a handgun in 1998 to kill an intimate acquaintance in self-defense, 97 women were murdered by an intimate acquaintance using a handgun.

From 2001-2005, more than 700 protection orders were granted in Lancaster County each year, including more than 800 in 2005.

Protection orders are in place for one year. While a person can't get a permit for a weapon or carry a concealed weapon while the protection order is in effect against him, he can get a permit and carry a concealed weapon once the protection order expires, unless, of course, he is disqualified for some other reason. What that means is that without this ordinance, there are hundreds of people in Lincoln that a judge deemed were enough of a threat to commit a violent crime that the judge granted a protection order against them. These potentially dangerous and violent people can still get a permit and carry a concealed weapon.



Another troublesome issue is that of the confidentiality provided for in LB454 that makes it impossible for women who are in domestic violence situations to find out if their abusers have even applied for a concealed carry permit. The law states that the Nebraska State Patrol will maintain a listing of all applicants and permit holders and that information will be made available upon request to federal, state and local law enforcement agencies, but is not considered public record and, therefore, not available to a woman who has a stalker in the community.

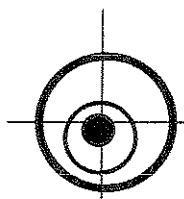
Other questions come to mind: Will a conceal carry weapon law encourage women to buy and store guns in their homes when they might not otherwise consider doing so? What does this mean for the safety of children in more homes with guns that may or may not be safely stored and guarded? Will the presence of more guns and/or concealed guns make volatile arguments between significant others/spouses more likely? Wouldn't we want to recognize the expertise and experience of local law enforcement officials who advocate a ban on conceal carry weapons?

Myths about Defensive Gun Use and Permissive Gun Carry Laws

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Myths about Defensive Gun Use and Permissive Gun Carry Laws

In 1998, economist John Lott, Jr. published a book with the provocative title *More Guns, Less Crime*¹ in which he presents and interprets data to support his thesis that communities are safer when its residents are free of government restrictions on gun ownership and carrying. The book focuses primarily on two of his studies. The first, conducted with David Mustard, estimates the effects on crime attributable to state laws that allow virtually all eligible gun buyers to obtain a permit to carry a gun in public.² The second, conducted with William Landes, examines the effects of permissive gun carrying laws on mass shootings.³ In each case, the authors conclude that permissive gun carrying laws result in substantial reductions in violent crime.

Another study that examines the benefits of gun ownership and carrying was conducted by Florida State University criminologists Gary Kleck and Marc Gertz,⁴ and was designed to estimate the frequency with which would-be-victims of crime in the U.S. use guns to successfully defend themselves. Kleck and Gertz estimate that 2.5 million citizens use guns in self-defense each year in the U.S., a figure that exceeds the annual number of gun crimes committed (around 1 million, according to government victimization surveys).

Lott and Kleck, as well as pro-gun activists, have used these studies to argue that policies that could potentially make guns less available to citizens may cause violent crime to increase by preventing more defensive gun uses than gun crimes. This paper summarizes some of the key problems with these studies and the authors' interpretations of their findings.

Evidence That Permissive Gun Carrying Laws Reduce Violent Crime

Currently, 31 states have laws that require local law enforcement authorities to issue permits to carry concealed handguns to any adult applicant who does not have a felony conviction or a history of serious mental illness. Prior to the implementation of such laws, local police had discretion in issuing such permits. Because most police officers are nervous about the possibility that every traffic stop or drunk-and-disorderly might be armed, law enforcement officials in states that allow police discretion in the issuance of gun carrying permits had typically issued only a limited number of such permits.

The argument by Lott and other proponents of permissive gun-carrying laws is that if more people could legally carry guns in public spaces, the chances that criminal predators encounter well-armed would-be victims will increase. This heightened risk faced by potential attackers will in turn dissuade them from committing violent crimes in the future.

The potential costs of these laws come from the possible misuse of guns by those with concealed-carry permits, and the potential complications that such laws may pose for police efforts to prevent illegal gun carrying. Another cost from these laws comes from the possibility of an "arms race" between criminals and law-abiding citizens. Previous research suggests that this is a plausible concern. Currently, a full 75% of robbers do not use guns to commit their crimes.⁵ If more potential victims start carrying handguns, those robbers who continue to perpetrate street muggings may be more likely to use guns to commit their crimes. When they do, these robbers may be more likely to shoot first and ask questions later in an attempt

¹ Lott JR Jr. *More Guns, Less Crime*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1998.

² Lott JR Jr, Mustard D. Crime, deterrence and right-to-carry concealed handguns. *Journal of Legal Studies* 1997; 26:1-68.

³ Lott JR Jr, Landes WM. Multiple-victim public shootings, bombings, and right-to-carry concealed handgun laws. University of Chicago Law School Working Paper, 1997.

⁴ Kleck G, Gertz M. Armed resistance to crime: The prevalence and nature of self-defense with a gun. *Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology* 1995 (Fall); 86:150-187.

⁵ Rennison CM. Criminal Victimization 1998: Changes 1997-98 with Trends 1993-98. (NCJ 176353) Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington D.C., July 1999.

to preempt an armed victim response. In fact, research by Philip Cook confirms that cities where more robbers use guns to commit their crimes also have higher robbery-murder rates.⁶

Since both positive and negative effects from these laws are in principle possible, what are the net effects on the overall rate of violent crime? The results of John Lott's research (or at least his interpretation of his findings) point one way, made clear by the book's title — *More Guns, Less Crime*. But, as we will demonstrate, the evidence that permissive gun carrying laws lead to substantial reductions in crime is shaky at best.

Much of Lott's book focuses on his and David Mustard's study that was designed to estimate the effects that permissive gun carrying laws had in the first 10 states that adopted them in the U.S. To estimate the impact of these laws, Lott analyzed data on crime trends from 1977 through 1992 for 3,054 counties across the U.S. His research approach was to identify the effects of permissive gun carrying laws by comparing changes in crime rates over time in states that adopted permissive concealed-carry laws with states that did not alter their usually more restrictive laws governing the issuing of permits to carrying concealed guns. These comparisons in trends statistically control for a number of differences across counties that may affect crime; for example, he controls for differences in the age, race, and income levels of populations. Some analyses also control for the presence of laws requiring waiting periods for handgun purchases and laws requiring mandatory minimum sentences for persons convicted of committing a violent crime with a gun.

The methods used in Lott's study are relatively sophisticated and, in some ways, are an improvement on previous evaluations of gun laws. But it is very difficult to derive valid estimates of the effects of 10 state gun laws due to the need to control for other factors that influence crime trends that may also be correlated with the passage of permissive gun carrying laws. The errors made in this study, several inconsistencies in the findings, the implausible estimates that are generated, and subsequent research on the effects of permissive gun carrying laws provide convincing evidence that Lott's methods do not adequately control for these other confounding factors.

We will not describe in detail all of the errors contained in *More Guns, Less Crime*. Readers are referred to the work of Professor Tim Lambert of the University of New South Wales for an extensive review of these errors, and our previous explanation of errors made in the classification of certain states' gun carrying laws.

Errors aside, the fundamental problem with Lott's research can be summarized by the old social science adage "correlation is not causation." Many variables may be related to one another yet not cause one another. For example, there is a significant association between a child's shoe size and the child's writing ability. But this correlation, of course, does not prove that large shoes improve writing ability.⁷

A similar inferential challenge lies at the heart of most policy evaluations, including Lott's study of the effects of permissive concealed-carry laws. If Florida has a lower crime rate than California, and Florida has a permissive concealed-carry law, can we conclude that the difference in crime rates is due to the gun-carrying legislation? In reality Florida and California differ along a number of dimensions, and attributing the difference in crime rates between the

⁶ Cook PJ. "The effect of gun availability on robbery and robbery murder: A cross-section study of fifty cities." In *Policy Studies Review Annual*, Volume 3, RH Haveman and GG Zellner (eds.), Beverly Hills, CA: Sage, 1979.

⁷ Kuzma JW. *Basic Statistics for the Health Sciences*. Mountain View, CA: Mayfield Publishing Company, 1984, page 159.

two states to any one factor is quite difficult. The obvious concern is that we will mistakenly attribute the difference in crime rates between Florida and California to the presence of a permissive concealed-carry law in the former, when in fact part or all of the difference will be due to other unmeasured differences across states. Lott does control for some differences between states that would explain some of the differences in crime rates. But he does not adequately control for many other factors that are almost surely relevant for a state's crime rate, including poverty, drugs (and in particular crack use and selling, which is widely thought to have been responsible for the dramatic increase in violent crime in America starting in the mid-1980's), gang activity, and police resources or strategies.

Lott tries to overcome this problem by comparing the *changes* in crime rates over time in states with versus without permissive concealed-carry laws. The idea is that unmeasured factors may cause California to have a higher crime rate than Florida, so focusing on the *change* in crime rates in Florida around the time of this state's gun-carrying law with the change observed in California around the same time will not be affected by the fact that California always has higher crime rates than Florida for reasons unrelated to the law. This research strategy assumes that the trend in crime rates in states like California and Florida would have been identical had Florida not enacted a permissive concealed-carry law.

But research by Dan Black at Syracuse University and Dan Nagin at Carnegie-Mellon show that: (1) states with permissive concealed-carry laws have violent crime trends that were different from other states even before the gun-carrying laws are enacted in that violence was increasing more in states that adopted permissive gun carrying laws than in other states in the years leading up to the permissive gun carrying law; and (2) the variables included in Lott's statistical models do a poor job of controlling for these differences in trends. As a result, differences in crime trends between states with and without permissive gun-carrying laws around the time of these laws cannot be attributed to the laws themselves, because all or part of the difference in trends around the time of the laws will be due to the unmeasured factors that caused the trends to be different before the laws went into effect. Crime trends in any particular area tend to be cyclical and regress to some long-term mean (average) after going up or down. Therefore, the reductions in violent crime observed after the introduction of permissive gun carrying laws may actually be simple regression to the mean, rather than the effects of the laws, as Lott suggests.

To his credit, Lott recognizes the potential problem with his crime-trend analysis. He attempts to remedy the problem in some of his analyses by using a more complicated statistical technique for identifying causal effects known as instrumental variables. Instrumental variables analyses are dependent on several crucial assumptions that may or may not hold in the crime data, though Lott presents none of the diagnostic tests that might help readers determine whether these assumptions are met. Instrumental variables require that the analyst identify a variable that is correlated with a state's gun carrying law, but is otherwise uncorrelated with differences across states in crime rates. One such variable that Lott uses is the proportion of a state's population that belongs to the National Rifle Association (NRA). While this variable is correlated with state concealed-carry laws, most people can recognize that

NRA representation within a state is likely to be correlated with crime rates for other reasons as well, since heavy NRA states are more likely than average to be rural and to support many other “tough on crime” measures. Lott uses other instrumental variables as well, though all of them have similar problems. In fact, the statistical problems with many of his instruments were discussed in a report issued on criminal deterrence by the National Academy of Sciences in 1978.⁸

Unlike most of the other findings that Lott describes in his book, he does not translate the results from the instrumental variable analyses into estimates of the percentage reduction in violent crime associated with the adoption of permissive gun carrying laws. When Lott’s findings from these analyses are translated in this manner, the estimates suggest that enacting a permissive gun carrying law will, on average, reduce homicides by 67 percent, rapes by 65 percent, and assaults by 73 percent. If true, these results suggest that if every state in the union enacted a permissive gun carrying law, our murder rate would be reduced to levels not seen in this country since 1910, roughly similar to the rate currently observed in Finland. These implausibly large estimates of the laws’ effects are strong evidence that Lott’s efforts to address the problem with his crime trend comparisons was unsuccessful.

Lott’s other study of the effects of permissive gun carrying laws on multiple-victim public shootings uses the same research approach at the study discussed above, and thus suffers from the same inferential problems. This study also produces estimates of the law effects that most would consider implausibly large — an 89% reduction in multiple-victim public shootings. One indicator of the implausibility of these estimates of the effects of permissive carry laws is Gary Kleck’s skepticism that permissive gun carrying laws could produce the much more modest reductions in violent crime (usually 2%–8%) that Lott more commonly trumpets. Kleck (generator of implausibly large estimates of the number of successful defensive gun uses in the U.S.) states that Lott’s conclusions that permissive gun carrying laws led to substantial reductions in violent crime

⁸ Blumstein A, Cohen J, Nagin D. Eds. *Deterrence in Incapacitation: Estimating the Effects of Criminal Sanctions on Crime Rates*. Washington, DC: National Academy Press, 1978.

⁹ Kleck G. *Targeting Guns: Firearms and Their Control*. New York: Aldine de Gruyter, 1997.

¹⁰ Robuck-Mangum G. “Concealed Weapon Permit Holders in North Carolina: A Descriptive Study of Handgun Carrying Behaviors.” Unpublished Master’s Thesis, University of North Carolina — Chapel Hill, School of Public Health, 1997.

...could be challenged, in light of how modest the intervention was. The 1.3% of the population in places like Florida who obtained permits would represent at best only a slight increase in the share of potential crime victims who carry guns in public places. And if those who got permits were merely legitimating what they were already doing before the new laws, it would mean that there was no increase at all in carrying or in actual risks to criminals.... More likely, the declines in crime coinciding with relaxation of carry laws were largely attributable to other factors not controlled in the Lott and Mustard analysis.⁹

Indeed, a subsequent survey of new permit holders in North Carolina indicates that most had been taking a gun outside the home, in their vehicles, or on their person prior to obtaining the permit with little or no increased frequency in carrying after obtaining the permit.¹⁰

The study that Lott references to argue that permit holders are rarely arrested for crimes of violence also indicates that permit holders very rarely successfully use a gun to ward off a criminal attacker. This study examined data collected by the Dade County, Florida police dur-

ing the first five years after Florida's permissive gun carrying law went into effect. During this period there were only three incidents in which a permit holder successfully used a gun in defense against a criminal attack outside the permit-holder's home.^{11 12} Considering that about 100,000 violent crimes were reported to Dade County police during the five-year study period, it is hard to argue that criminals are likely to have noticed a significant change in their risk of facing a victim armed with a gun.

Another way to assess whether the decreases in violent crime that Lott finds are associated with permissive gun carrying laws are actually attributable to the laws and not to unmeasured confounding factors is to see if the crime reductions are most pronounced for robberies than for other types of crimes because robberies are most likely to be committed against strangers in public places. But Lott's own research indicates that the violent crime category for which permissive gun carrying law effects were weakest (and often nonexistent) was robbery. Because even permissive gun carrying laws do not allow juveniles to legally carry guns, one should see greater reductions for victimizations of adults than of juveniles. Again, Lott's research as well as subsequent research¹³ indicates that permissive gun carrying laws were not associated with greater reductions in murders of adults than of murders of juveniles.

¹¹ There were also three incidents in which permit holders unsuccessfully attempted to use a gun in defense against a criminal attack outside the home, including one case in which a robber took the permit holder's gun away.

¹² Data cited in: Cramer CE, Kopel DB. Shall Issue: The new wave of concealed handgun permit laws. *Tennessee Law Review*, 1995; 62:679-758.

¹³ Ludwig J. Concealed-gun-carrying laws and violent crime — evidence from state panel data. *International Review of Law and Economics*, 1998; 18:239-254.

¹⁴ Hemenway D. Survey research and self-defense gun use: An explanation of extreme overestimates. *Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology* 1998.

The Myth of 2.5 Million Defensive Gun Uses Per Year

Kleck and Gertz's claim of 2.5 million defensive gun uses per year is derived from a telephone survey of 5,000 American adults conducted in 1992. Fifty-six respondents to this survey reported that they had used a gun in self-defense during the past year. Kleck and Gertz multiply the proportion of respondents in their survey who report a defensive gun use ($X / 5,000 = Y$ percent) by the number of adults in the U.S. (around 200 million) and the number of defensive gun uses equals 2.5 million per year. They estimate that in 670,000 of these incidents the would-be victims used guns when they were away from their homes.

Many people are amazed that projections about national phenomena can be made based on a telephone survey of a few thousand adults. While many surveys of this type can provide useful information about national phenomena, in this particular case the public's skepticism is warranted. The primary problem is that, even if the Kleck and Gertz's estimates were accurate, defensive gun use is a relatively rare occurrence in that only 1% of respondents reported a defensive gun use during the previous 12 months. As David Hemenway of Harvard University has pointed out, inaccurate reporting of these events by a relatively small number of respondents could lead to population projections that are orders of magnitude different from the true incidence.¹⁴ For example, if one-half of one percent of the survey respondents incorrectly reported that they had used a gun to defend themselves against a criminal attack during the past year, the estimated number of defensive gun uses would be twice as high the true number.

There are many reasons that respondents' reports of defensive gun use might be exaggerated. In some cases, respondents may have misjudged the level of danger they faced when they drew their gun. Survey researchers are also familiar with two types of response bias, "telescoping" and social desirability bias, that could lead to an overstated incidence of

reported events such as defensive gun use. Telescoping refers to the tendency of respondents to report that salient events such as a crime victimization or a defensive gun use occurred more recently than was the case. Evidence that the Kleck-Gertz survey respondents are telescoping their recollections of their crime victimizations comes from the estimated number of robbery victimizations it produces that is nearly five times as high as the estimate derived from the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS). The NCVS minimizes telescoping by using shorter recall periods and a panel design that re-surveys respondents multiple times over a three-year period.

Social desirability bias refers to the tendency of respondents to over-report their actions they believe others would find admirable such as an heroic act to defend oneself or others against a criminal. There is no way to definitively determine the degree to which social desirability bias may have influenced the Kleck-Gertz estimates of defensive gun use. However, it seems likely that the nearly half of the respondents reporting defensive gun uses who indicated that they believe their defensive gun use saved their life or the life of someone else probably thought of their actions as heroic. Such incidents are regularly reported in *American Rifleman*, a monthly magazine distributed to all members of the National Rifle Association, in a manner that unequivocally portrays the incidents as heroic acts.

Given these possible sources of error, it is not surprising that surveys sometimes produce quite puzzling results. For example, in his discussion of the pitfalls of using the Kleck-Gertz survey to make population projections about the incidence of defensive gun use, David Hemenway of Harvard University cites a 1994 phone survey of 1,500 adults living in the U.S. Six percent of the respondents to this survey reported having had personal contact with aliens from another planet. This six percent could be explained, in part, by the series of questions that led up to question about contact with aliens that set up the respondent to expect that the interviewer was hoping for some alien-contact answers. In addition, some small yet non-negligible percentage of survey respondents could be expected to have mental conditions that impair their perceptions and lead them to report defensive gun incidents that did not actually happen.

Not surprisingly, the combined effects of these problems can produce population estimates that are grossly out of line with other measures of violent crime. For example, the Kleck-Gertz projection for the number of assailants wounded by armed citizens in 1992 is more than twice as high as the estimate from another study of the *total* number of people treated for gunshot wounds in a nationally representative sample of hospitals in 1994. Finally, the Kleck-Gertz survey data suggest that, in serious crimes, the victim was four times more likely than the offender to have and use a gun, a highly implausible finding given the much higher rate of gun carrying among criminals compared with other citizens.

A Re-evaluation of the Science on Guns and Violent Crime Is Not Warranted

The idea that the availability of guns increased the lethality of violent crime was first established by a 1968 study of crime in Chicago by Franklin Zimring, currently a law professor at the University of California at Berkeley. Zimring showed that most homicides and other assaults stem from arguments between people, rather than premeditated gangland-style executions. In addition, he found that assaults with a firearm were much more lethal than those in which the attacker uses a knife, even though the circumstances of gun and knife attacks closely resemble each other in most respects.¹⁵ If the number of wounds inflicted is a reflection of the attackers' homicidal intentions, assailants using knives actually demonstrated greater intent to kill their victims than did the assailants who used guns. A similar conclusion was reached when Duke University professor Philip Cook compared gun and non-gun robberies in a series of studies during the '70's and '80's.^{6, 16, 17} The implication is that more guns mean more death, and policies that can keep guns from violence-prone individuals should reduce the number of homicides.

In addition to increasing the lethality of violent acts against individuals, guns enhance assailants ability to, within seconds, wound or kill many people, including children and other innocent by-standers. It is no surprise that incidents in which assailants seriously injure or kill many people with weapons other than firearms are quite rare in the U.S. where firearms are so plentiful.

As a result, policy makers and researchers have struggled to identify ways to keep guns away from those who are most likely to misuse them, while preserving access to guns for most law-abiding adults. Among the gun control measures that are designed to reduce the availability of guns to potentially dangerous individuals include regulations that require background checks to screen eligible from ineligible buyers, registration of firearms, licensing of firearm owners, and restrictions on the number of firearms that can be legally purchased. Most of these measures have not been adequately evaluated, however, there is some evidence that background checks requirements for handgun sales have some effect in reducing violent behavior by convicted felons. Policy makers have also sought to regulate gun design with the objective of minimizing public health costs associated with gun misuse. Examples of this approach include bans on guns with fully-automatic firing mechanisms and proposals to require all new handguns to come equipped with devices that prevent unauthorized use. There is also evidence that restrictions on carrying of guns in public places, particularly in high-risk settings and often with stepped-up enforcement, can significantly reduce gun violence.^{18, 19}

Although research by John Lott and Gary Kleck has challenged the prevailing view that gun regulations can reduce lethal crimes, the many limitations of Lott's and Kleck's research indicate that there is no reason to move from view of guns and violence backed by research in previous decades. Until proven otherwise, the best science indicates that more guns will lead to more deaths.

¹⁵ Zimring FE. Is gun control likely to reduce violent killings? *The University of Chicago Law Review* 1968; 35:721-737.

¹⁶ Cook PJ. Reducing injury and death rates in robbery. *Policy Analysis* 1980; 6:21-45.

¹⁷ Cook PJ. Robbery violence. *Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology* 1987; 78:357-376.

¹⁸ Sherman LW, Shaw JW, Rogan DP. *The Kansas City gun experiment*. National Institute of Justice Research in Brief. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Dept. of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, National Institute of Justice, January 1995.

¹⁹ Fagan J; Zimring FE; Kim J. Declining homicide in New York City: A tale of two trends. *Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology*, 1998 Summer; 88(4):1277-1323.



"Don Bougger."
<dbougger@lps.org>

06/22/2006 06:58 PM

Please respond to
"Don Bougger."
<dbougger@lps.org>

To <Council@lincoln.ne.gov>

cc

bcc

Subject Conceal and Carry

As a resident of the city of Lincoln, I would like to encourage the members of the city council to allow the Nebraska law permitting law-abiding adults to conceal and carry weapons within the city limits. People that do not follow the law are already armed and quite dangerous. The law which will take effect next January will allow people that have followed all parts of the law to conceal and carry weapons. These law abiding citizens will not be the type of citizens that will do harm with their weapons. One of the members of the city council proposed allowing the law to take effect for one year and then make a decision on this issue. I agree that this would be a proper method of dealing with this complex issue.

I am concerned that the city of Lincoln will become a safe haven for those wishing to do harm if we pass a law banning concealed weapons while the rest of the state allows law abiding citizens to be armed. The law allowing our Nebraska citizens to conceal and carry weapons was passed after a great deal of thought by the members of the Nebraska State Legislature. I would hope that our mayor and the members of the city council would not protect the criminal element of our city by taking this right away from citizens that follow all laws in the city of Lincoln.

Respectfully yours,
Don Bougger
3900 Loveland Dr.
Lincoln, NE 68506



"Amy Sandquist"
<samarex1@earthlink.net>

06/22/2006 07:13 PM

Please respond to
samarex1@earthlink.net

To council@lincoln.ne.gov

cc

bcc

Subject Mayor Seng

City Council Members,

The very significant majority of my friends do not own guns. I do not own a gun, never have owned a gun, and have no intentions of ever owning a gun of any type. However, I cannot support the Mayors' mistaken approach to prohibiting qualified permit holders to carry a gun. My reasoning is not based so much upon the 2nd Amendment to the US Constitution. Rather it is based predominantly upon more current facts and statistics, and not upon uninformed opinions that have apparently persuaded the Mayor to take this predictable action. I do not believe the Mayor's proposal will gain the results she seeks.

But Mayor Seng clearly appears to have fallen prey to the "no guns, period" bias in her attempt to overrule the Unicameral's recent statute allowing qualified permit holders to carry a gun in Nebraska - a national trend supported by a majority of state legislatures, and intended to better enable legitimate, qualified permit holders to better protect themselves from assault - assault by strangers, abusive husbands, and otherwise.

The very significant majority of my friends do not own guns. I do not own a gun, never have owned a gun, and have no intentions of ever owning a gun of any type. However, I cannot support the Mayors' badly mistaken approach to prohibiting qualified permit holders to carry a gun. My reasoning is not based so much upon the 2nd Amendment to the US Constitution. Rather it is based predominantly upon more current facts and statistics, and not upon uninformed opinions that have apparently persuaded the Mayor to take this predictable action.

Statistic show that where carrying guns has been legalized, assaults using guns have actually decreased, often quite significantly. The State of Florida is only one example, where legislation allowing qualified permit holders to carry a gun has resulted in a decrease in gun related assaults by one third since the inception of corresponding legislation several years ago. A very significant number of Florida permit holders are women. Washington D.C. has witnessed quite contrary results since banning 'concealed carry' policies. These examples are both largely representational of the nation at large. The admittedly overused "only criminals will carry guns" cliché actually appears to bear a very significant degree of truth, and if the Mayor's proposal is adopted, this cliché will apply in Lincoln.

So the Mayor's proposal may quite likely have exactly the opposite results from the well intened goals she hopes for. I ask you as representatives of our City, please seek and strongly consider the facts before acting on the Mayor's seemingly uninformed and reactionary "no guns period" proposal. Thank you for your efforts!

Just a voter that reads non-fiction,

Scott Sandquist
6309 Eastshore Drive
Lincoln, NE 68516



"Ronnie Olson"
<ro62028@alltel.net>
06/23/2006 08:35 AM

To <council@lincoln.ne.gov>
cc
bcc
Subject items before the council

My husband and I would just like to let the council know our feelings on a couple of items that the council might be looking at.

We would like to see a drop in the levy.

Also the concealed weapons law that the state passed should be left alone. Do you really think that husbands that abuse their wives have a permit? You are going to prevent the wife from getting training and having that option to protect herself against him. Criminals will have the weapons whether there is the law or not. The only people that you would be truly hurting are those that are looking to protect themselves.



WebForm
<none@lincoln.ne.gov>
06/23/2006 09:15 AM

To General Council <council@lincoln.ne.gov>
cc
bcc
Subject InterLinc: Council Feedback

InterLinc: City Council Feedback for
General Council

Name: Joe Binge
Address: 3421 W. Peach St.
City: Lincoln, NE, 68522

Phone:
Fax:
Email: jbinge@inebraska.com

Comment or Question:
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am concerned about the Mayor's proposed concealed carry ban. Not only am I not in favor of this or any ban in Lincoln, but I truly cannot understand how a ban like this benefits any law abiding citizen.

It is unfortunate that there are people in this world who are violent, and will cause harm to or kill their friends, spouses, children, family, and perfect strangers. But these are the people who are not going to subject themselves to a police background check, take a proficiency class, pay their fee, just so they can go injure or kill their victims. These are the people who are going to stick their gun in their pocket and go shoot their victim, and I believe there are already city, state, and federal laws addressing this.

I would hope that before voting on an issue like this, the members of the council feel an obligation to research statistics from cities similar to ours who do allow concealed carry. What did happen to crime rates? How did it affect domestic violence in the jurisdiction? How did the attitudes of the local law enforcement change, if any, from before the law to after the law was in effect? In all the states that have CCW laws, how many licensed people have been charged and convicted of using their weapons in a crime?

I hope the council will do their research, and hopefully will come to the conclusion that a CCW ban in Lincoln only denies our law abiding citizens a right given to the majority of the country.

Thank you for your time.



Shirley R Anderson
<sranderson6@juno.com>

06/23/2006 09:16 AM

To council@lincoln.ne.gov

cc

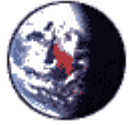
bcc

Subject Re: Right to bear arms

Dear Lincoln City Council,

I am really tired of the Mayor pushing her weight around.
She expelled Walmart, and now it's gun control.
Let the people speak, and they have.
Do we want only the criminals to have guns, and isn't that one of our
constitutional rights?

Shirley R. Anderson
3710 W Street
Lincoln, NE 68503-2742
402-432-0653; 402-467-3028



SamRupp7@aol.com

06/23/2006 12:09 PM

To council@lincoln.ne.gov

cc

bcc

Subject Please kill the Concealed carry ban

I am asking you to oppose the mayors attempt to ban the concealed carry law in Lincoln. This is a self defense issue and the mayor is on the wrong side of it. The objective statistics show that crime goes down when concealed carry laws are permitted. IT IS CLEAR THAT SENG DOES NOT TRUST PEACEFUL LAW ABIDING CITIZENS! I can assure you that I could not vote for any politician that would deny me my right to self protection. So I am asking you please, kill the ban on concealed carry. Many friends and other NRA members agree with me. Please do the right thing by killing the ban. Thank you.

Sam Rupp
6426 Kearney Ave.
Lincoln NE 68507
NRA member



"John Swancara"
<john@norlandintl.com>
06/23/2006 03:20 PM

To <council@lincoln.ne.gov>
cc
bcc
Subject Concealed weapons

Please vote down the Mayors proposal to ban concealed weapons.

Please do not ignore the will of the people of the State of Nebraska who support the right to carry concealed weapons.

She should be more concerned with concealed Fire Trucks than with law full concealed weapons.

John Swancara

A Voter who votes every election

CLARICE M. LAWSON
3243 "Q" STREET
LINCOLN, NE 68503-3445
(Telephone: (402) 477-1115)
(e-mail: cl2970@inebraska.com)

RECEIVED
JUN 26 2006
CITY COUNCIL
OFFICE

June 23, 2006

City of Lincoln, Nebraska ATT: City Council Members
555 South 10th Street
Lincoln, Nebraska 68521

RE: Agenda to create City Ordinance to ban right to carry concealed weapons

On May 12, 2006 I wrote letters to the city council (one for each council person). Did you receive that letter? I mailed it on May 12 and have not received a response from anyone on the City Council by telephone, letter, or e-mail. Why has that been the case?

The whole subject had been pretty much "hush-hush" since the Legislators passed the Right To Carry Concealed Weapons . . . then along came Mayor Colleen Seng . . . to propose a City Wide Ban on Carrying Concealed Weapons.

It is the responsibility of the City Council to respond to input of constituents on an item put before the council. This has not been done.

Today I read in the Journal Star that the ban will be before the City Council on Monday, June 26, 2006. Please respond to me before the City Council meeting and let me know how you intend to vote on this and why. I'll be watching the City Council Proceedings. I'm sure there will be many who will be testifying about the Pros & Cons of this proposal to BAN the Right to Carry Concealed Weapons (which will, of course, require a permit [concealed weapons are not for everybody]). I HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE INFORMED ABOUT THE PROCEEDINGS AND THE OUTCOME OF THEM.

I do understand that my first letter may have been a little confusing concerning my stand on the issue about to come before you. I'll try to clarify my stand in this letter.

First of all, I would hate having the wrong people being granted a permit to carry a concealed weapon; as I stated in the above paragraph, concealed weapons are not for everyone. All applicants for a permit need to be screened for past history of activities and police records.

Those who I believe should be able to receive a permit to carry a concealed weapon are those persons who are at risk for being assaulted, robbed, killed, etc., etc., etc. Examples of these people would be: private and public investigators, bank tellers, convenience store workers on duty, domestic violence victims, persons living in a high-

crime district (especially if they live alone and would otherwise be helpless against criminal behavior), persons traveling alone, persons without extended family to turn to.

I have always been an observer of people's actions and behavior and have been able to spot trouble on a regular basis, but there are times when trouble is a surprise. I have seen people wondering around neighborhoods at odd hours of the day that make me wonder about their character and/or personality, some of whom I would not wish to be surprised by.

I happen to live alone; most of the time I live fearlessly and confident, but I often wonder how I would and/or should react if confronted by a burglar, rapist, murderer, or aggressive "drunk" . . . sometimes those who would harm me present themselves as door-to-door solicitors, etc. I just do not know what my reactions might be at such a time . . . and I am no longer strong enough or quick enough to respond physically to an attack. My course of action has been to avoid the person(s), retreat, call the police, or run to my neighbors for help.

I can learn the handling of a gun and that would be my choice of weapon if the need arose to use one; I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE THE RIGHT TO CARRY A CONCEALED WEAPON.

Sincerely

Clarice M. Lawson, interested law-abiding citizen and registered voter

To City Council,

6/28/06

I John Turner wish to make a comment on the concealed carry law. I am an ex police man under Joe Carol, and since have carried a handgun in my car. On two occasions I have had to show a weapon to protect myself. I am not interested in carrying a hand gun on my person but would like to be legal to carry one in my car. I am a long time member of NRA and also have a permit to buy handguns. I would appreciate your consideration to those of us who would like to be legal with carrying a handgun in our vehicles.

RECEIVED

JUN 28 2006

CITY COUNCIL
OFFICE

Thank You
John Turner

PUT THE BRAKES ON KENO!

City Council Members of Lincoln, Nebraska...*please* do not continue to approve new Keno locations. Keno operators want to introduce electronic gaming, which causes addictions 3.5 times faster than other forms of gambling. Gambling is the fastest-growing teenage addiction. Keno doesn't add new dollars our economy. Please respect the wishes of voters 18 months ago who said "NO" to gambling.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address (Lincoln residents only, please)</u>
Shirley Eggleston	215 N. 75 ST. CT 68505
Beverly Taylor	6611 Westshore Dr. 68516
Robert H. Taylor	6611 Westshore Dr. 68516
Bill Eggleston	215 N. 75 th St. Ct. 68505
Bruce Wagner	431 Redwood Dr 68510
Glen Houtz	6240 S. 28 th 68516
Joe [unclear]	1601 Susan Circle 68506
Robert D. Hicks	6240 Dogwood Cir. 68516
Ch [unclear]	3221 Joy Ct. 68502
Dennis S. [unclear]	1521 SE 77 th 68506
Bud [unclear]	6911 Summit 506
Marvin B. Rhodes	6530 X 68505
Victor Kovac	2001 273 68505
Boyd [unclear]	7700 V. [unclear] #316 68506
Robert [unclear]	

RECEIVED
JUN 23 2006
CITY COUNCIL
OFFICE

Please mail to: Lincoln City Council, 555 S. 13th, Lincoln, NE 68508

PUT THE BRAKES ON KENO!

City Council Members of Lincoln, Nebraska...*please* do not continue to approve new Keno locations. Keno operators want to introduce electronic gaming, which causes addictions 3.5 times faster than other forms of gambling. Gambling is the fastest-growing teenage addiction. Keno doesn't add new dollars our economy. Please respect the wishes of voters 18 months ago who said "NO" to gambling.

Name

Address (Lincoln residents only, please)

Sheila M. Thompson

1611 Marlene Dr., Lincoln

Amelia Drexler

1711 W. Starfield

Janice Tolson

136 W. Burt Dr 68521

Barak Erickson

5610 So 80th Lincoln

Dandi Pireol

6010 So 90 Lincoln 68526

Deena Wilkins

3931 Eagle Ridge Rd Lincoln 68516

Karen Birdwell

5501 Linden St, Lincoln, NE 68514

RECEIVED

JUN 23 2006

CITY COUNCIL
OFFICE

Please mail to: Lincoln City Council, 555 S. 13th, Lincoln, NE 68508

City Of Lincoln Offices City Council Office

555 S 10th St
Lincoln, NE, 68508-2810

RECEIVED

JUN 26 2006

CITY COUNCIL
OFFICE

To The Members of the City Council and Mayor Colleen Seng

In view of the recent articles concerning taxes and evaluations I'd like to express my thoughts on the continued hike in property tax. There is a decline in sales tax because the general public cannot afford to go out and buy, we must save our monies for property taxes, and the high prices on gasoline. Those residents of Lincoln who are retired and living on a fixed income, and the elderly living on Social Security benefits cannot stand much more in property tax increases.

I do realize the city must continue to lure new business to Lincoln, but to spend money we do not have for all the updates, and expect to get it from property taxes is not very good planning. We are considering moving out of Lincoln, and out of Nebraska because of the high taxes. We are both retired and feeling the crunch of increased taxes.

I urge each and every one of you to consider the fact that we do not all make as much money as perhaps you do, think of the little people in your community, halt new projects until we can get the city back to a workable budget.

I know many people do not approve of gambling, however, stop in at any of the casino's in Council Bluffs and take note of all the Nebraska vehicles in the parking lot. You can't tell me that much of those dollars could stay right here in Nebraska, thus to the benefit of not only the state government, but school district, etc. I worked for the school system for 24.5 years, and saw the benefits of the lottery funds, and is that not a form of gambling, as are scratch cards. I know the state government would have to approve casino's but our city could benefit from it. If a person is going to gamble they will drive to Iowa, South Dakota, and Kansas. Let's keep it at home.

I appreciate your time in reading my letter. I am only one small voice but wanted you to hear my concerns.

Sincerely,



Wavell A Marcsisak

2500 Surrey Ct, Lincoln, NE 68512-1550



Kay P Ballard
<bullwinklekay@juno.com>
06/26/2006 10:02 PM

To Council@lincoln.ne.gov
cc
bcc
Subject Sidewalk Issue at June 26th Meeting

Council Members.

I attended the June 26th meeting to support Edenton South's desire that a sidewalk not be put in on the south side of Stevens Ridge Road. As the discussion progressed, the word arterial was continually used. An **arterial road** is a moderate or high-capacity road which is just below a highway level of service (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arterial_road). Stevens Ridge Road may be the only road in the list of roads that need sidewalks that is not along an arterial road. Please take that in to consideration when you make your decision.

I have lived in the neighborhood for over 23 years. I have raised two children here. I have never thought it would be nice to have a sidewalk on the south side of Stevens Ridge Road. The sidewalk on the north side is adequate. Even if a sidewalk is put along the east side of 70th Street, a sidewalk is not needed on the south side of Stevens Ridge. People wanting to use the 70th Street sidewalk can cross Stevens Ridge going south just like a person coming from Old Cheney or anywhere north would have to do to continue down the sidewalk.

I agree with issues brought up by the three Edenton South residents that spoke at the meeting. At our annual homeowner's association meeting on June 17th, not one resident came and asked that a sidewalk be put on the south side of Stevens Ridge. We would not just have the cost of putting the sidewalk in but would have costs associated with relandscaping and with maintaining the sidewalk that is not needed.

Please remove the Stevens Ridge sidewalk from the list of needed sidewalks.

Thank you.
Kay Ballard
6031 South 72nd Street
Lincoln, NE 68516
489-5524



Marilyn Hoskins
<mhoskin@unlnotes.unl.edu>

06/27/2006 09:07 AM

To Council@lincoln.ne.gov

cc

bcc

Subject Please distribute to each City Council Member

After listening to the discussions surrounding the Mayor's proposed budget, there are many options to turn this unfortunate situation around. First and foremost, Lincoln is an unfriendly town for business – capitalism is almost a four-letter word in this town. As the Angelou report clearly stated, the city has to become business friendly to survive. I am wondering if the City Council and Mayor's office will ever act on that fact.

First, we have too much property off the tax rolls. There are sites around the city that are underutilized and cost the city for maintenance. The most obvious area is the dog park just north of Oak Lake. That could be made available for a campus style office park and put back on the tax rolls and eliminate the need for city maintenance. The infrastructure is in place to make it an attractive site.

Second, the City denial of a Wal-Mart in the Northeast sector was a huge error for economic development as was the denial of the development of the 21st and Capital Parkway area. The sales tax revenues of those two developments would have been significant.

The thinking of the city officials that anytime there is a shortage of funds, the tax burden should be increased is a detriment to city growth. Home building and industry site selection is moving out of the city limits just to avoid the heavy tax burden accompanied by poor infrastructure.

It is past time for our elected officials to move past the status quo and move this city forward.

Marilyn Hoskins



"Jayne Sebbby"
<jsebbby@cornhusker.net>
06/27/2006 10:01 AM

To <council@lincoln.ne.gov>
cc
bcc
Subject Property Taxes

I presume that it is abundently clear that Mayor Seng will not be running for re-election, given public response to her budget proposal.

I just want to add my voice to the hundreds you've probably already heard from that the property tax levy rate must be reduced and the proposed city budget slashed to a reasonable, affordable rate.

Furthermore, the city MUST be more open to ALL incoming businesses, including Walmart - no matter how much we may not like them, so we can revitalize Lincoln's economy and grow sales tax revenues.

Jayne Sebbby
320 South 29th St.
Lincoln, NE 68510
(402) 474-3059
jsebbby@cornhusker.net



"Joel Christiansen"
<joelc@inebraska.com>
06/27/2006 04:38 PM

To <tgrammer@lincoln.ne.gov>
cc
bcc
Subject Budget concerns

To Mayor Seng and all members of the City Council of Lincoln,
You have an opportunity to step up and demonstrate that you can in fact be good custodians of the tax dollars that the hardworking citizen of this community pays.
Lincoln is becoming too expensive to live in. If the elected public officials are not more prudent about spending, we could very well see an exodus of good people and successful businesses leaving Lincoln.
I have lived here since 1980, and not once during that time did I ever receive any property tax relief. Now, the dirty little tax secret is disguised by raising property valuations. Property tax increase or property value increase; both represent a tax increase.
You are already facing a budget deficit. Most people in the private sector would have to find a way to cut expenses. That doesn't seem to be the guiding standard in government.
Within the past year, I read with outrage the high cost of paying city and county workers, and from my experience in business I know that most of a budget is reflected in personnel costs.
There really needs to be someone to step and stop the addiction to public spending. It can begin with each of you exercising some restraint in agreeing on a budget that doesn't reflect more financial pain on the citizens of Lincoln. Leadership demands courage. It will take courage for each of you to say no to more spending.
Joel Christiansen



WebForm
<none@lincoln.ne.gov>
06/28/2006 06:37 AM

To General Council <council@lincoln.ne.gov>
cc
bcc
Subject InterLinc: Council Feedback

InterLinc: City Council Feedback for
General Council

Name: Daylene Kollmorgen
Address: 7660 Phares Dr
City: Lincoln, NE 68516

Phone: 402 484-8067
Fax:
Email: KKOLLMORGEN@FT.NEWYORKLIFE.COM

Comment or Question:

Please do not use 100% of the mill levey concerning the mayor's budget. I believe it would be irreponsible. This tax and spend mentality is only driving businesses away from Lincoln.
Thank you,
Daylene Kollmorgen

PUT THE BRAKES ON KENO!

RECEIVED

JUN 28 2006

CITY COUNCIL
OFFICE

City Council Members of Lincoln, Nebraska...*please* do not continue to approve new Keno locations. Keno operators want to introduce electronic gaming, which causes addictions 3.5 times faster than other forms of gambling. Gambling is the fastest-growing teenage addiction. Keno doesn't add new dollars our economy. Please respect the wishes of voters 18 months ago who said "NO" to gambling.

Name

Address (Lincoln residents only, please)

Sharon Ellumier
Susan Douglass
Dorothy Spiche
Kwinn R. Fry
The Rev. Jane Heenan⁺
Sue Burkmann

1801 I St #1
411 Santa Fe Trl 68521

2232 Vavrine Lane 68512

1976 'A' Street
3001 Pointe Circle, Lincoln 68506
1803 E 68508

Please mail to: Lincoln City Council, 555 S. 13th, Lincoln, NE 68508



Ryan Burger
<ryan_burger2@yahoo.com>
06/28/2006 02:51 PM

To council@lincoln.ne.gov
cc
bcc
Subject 14th & Superior

Council Members,

I would like you to respectfully consider the need for left turn lights for north and south bound traffic at the intersection of 14th & Superior.

With current and new developments in the area, traffic is busy in the morning and afternoon hours. It is nearly impossible to turn left onto Superior (especially for south bound traffic) during these times. This is very frustrating for drivers. It is frustrating to the point where 2 or 3 cars will make the turn after a red light has appeared, seeing this as their only chance to cross.

This problem will not go away. People are moving into the newly developed areas. More and more people will be accumulating at this intersection everyday.

Please consider the left turn lights during this budget time. I only hope that it will not take several accidents to help you make up your mind. Lets solve this problem and get the lights going before the end of the 2006-2007 fiscal year.

I appreciate your time and consideration.

Ryan Burger
7120 Whitewater Lane
Lincoln, NE 68521

Sneak preview the [all-new Yahoo.com](http://all-new.Yahoo.com). It's not radically different. Just radically better.



WebForm
<none@lincoln.ne.gov>
06/28/2006 09:11 PM

To General Council <council@lincoln.ne.gov>
cc
bcc
Subject InterLinc: Council Feedback

InterLinc: City Council Feedback for
General Council

Name: Tanya Forney
Address: 2620 N.W. 49th
City: Lincoln, NE 68524

Phone: 470-3181
Fax:
Email:

Comment or Question:

6-28-06

RE: New Sidewalk installation

Dear City Council Members,

I recently received a letter from the city stating that the city has proposed new sidewalks for NW 48th Street.

Since my property is next to NW 48th, I was notified that if the sidewalks were installed that I would be responsible for the cost of the new sidewalk. I have concerns regarding this matter.

There appears to be no consistency throughout the city on installing new sidewalks. I live in a lower income section of the city and I cannot afford, nor can my neighbors, the cost of a new sidewalk. I was informed at the last city council meeting the 70th and Pioneers Blvd. proposal was opposed. Will these areas be exempted because they have organized opposition? This area has a significantly higher income level than my neighborhood. It doesn't seem fair to force additional expense on sections of town that can least afford it!!!

Also, how does the city justify forcing property owners to pay for new sidewalks when the city doesn't maintain existing sidewalks that they are responsible to repair? When I inquired concerning the repair of sidewalks in my neighborhood I was told funds weren't available. Looks like a double standard to me!

Thank you for your time and understanding my concerns.

Tanya Forney



WebForm
<none@lincoln.ne.gov>
06/28/2006 09:58 PM

To General Council <council@lincoln.ne.gov>
cc
bcc
Subject InterLinc: Council Feedback

InterLinc: City Council Feedback for
General Council

Name: Gary Zellweger
Address: 2610 C Street
City: Lincoln, NE 68502

Phone: 402 474 2645
Fax:
Email: gzell@lps.org

Comment or Question:

To whom it may concern,

Recently one of the council members, I don't remember which one, talked about getting people to spend their vacations and money in Lincoln. With the amount of fireworks being let off in my neighborhood, the Sunken Gardens area, I want to be anywhere else but Lincoln. The fireworks have already been going off for a few days and nights and it's going to get worse each day. I'm willing to live with it on the fourth, but this is too much. Luckily I have someplace else to go and only have to spend one more day here.

Thanks,

Gary Zellweger



"Ron Ritchey"
<ronritche@hotmai.com>
06/29/2006 06:31 AM

To <council@lincoln.ne.gov>
cc
bcc
Subject property taxes

I currently pay \$16,399 a year on property taxes. I just wanted all the council members to know that I will never vote to reelect anyone who doesn't work to find a way to make some spending cuts and reduce the amount of money I pay for taxes.

I have been expressing this opinion to everyone I know to try to convince them to do the same thing.

I have a friend who was just making it by and they are making plans on selling their home and moving because they are not going to be able to afford the tax increase.

I'm wondering if I will ever have to do the same thing. I have been considering selling our second car, which we need to get our kids to school. I have also started wondering if I'm going to have to take a second job which will reduce the already VERY limited amount of time I get to spend with my family even more.

I currently own six rental property and will have let the tenants know that I will have to raise the rent because of the tax increases. If that doesn't go well, I may have to sell some or all of them and get out of that business.

Please consider these comments because I know a lot of others that are in the same situation.

Thanks

Ron Ritchey

RonRitchey@HotMail.Com

Be one of the first to try Windows Live Mail beta [Windows Live Mail beta](#)